

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. L.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 1900.

No. 3.

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BIRTHS.

At Tientsin, on Sunday, the 31st December, 1899, the wife of H. ST. CLAIR KNOX, of a daughter.
At Woodbury, Kowloon, on the 14th January, the wife of Staff Surgeon W. G. K. BARNES, R.N., H.M.S. *Undaunted*, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 2nd January, 1900, at St. John's Church, Hankow, by the Rev. L. H. ROOTS, B.A., WALTER CARTER, of Highgate, London, to MARIE HELENE, youngest daughter of W. C. HOWARD, I.M. Customs, Hankow.

On the 6th January, at the Presbyterian Church, Singapore, by the Rev. S. Stephen Walker, M.A., assisted by the Rev. F. H. Morgan, Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, F. J. BENJAMIN to CHARLOTTE ELLEN (NELLIE), second daughter of Mr. G. H. BROWN, Grassdale, Singapore.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American Mail of the 5th December arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Onsang*, on the 14th January (40 days); the French Mail of the 15th December arrived, per M.M. steamer *Indus*, on the 16th January (31 days); and the American Mail of the 21st December arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *American Maru*, on the 18th January (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Pavloff, Russian Minister to Korea, has arrived at Shanghai.

The English residents of Seoul have contributed \$950 to the Patriotic Fund.

The Yokohama Specie Bank have opened a branch of their establishment at Newchwang.

The Hongkong contribution (including Manila, Nagasaki and outpost contributions) amounts to \$93,840.77.

Vice-Admiral Alexieff, the new Russian Governor-General of Kuantung, has arrived and taken over office at Port Arthur.

At Li Hung-chang's farewell audience a few days ago the Empress is said to have earnestly impressed upon him the necessity to secure Kang Yu-wei and any members of his party.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

H.M.S. *Victorious* arrived at Nagasaki on the 5th inst. from Weihaiwei. The German cruiser *Irene* left Nagasaki on the 5th for Foochow.

The St Andrew's and St George's Societies of Yokohama have opened a subscription list in connection with the *Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund.

It is reported that the plague has broken out in Honolulu and that several deaths have occurred. The authorities are taking energetic steps to suppress the disease.

Mr. N. Post, until recently Austro-Hungarian Vice-Consul at Shanghai, has been promoted to take charge of the Austro-Hungarian Consulate at Hongkong.

Prince Valdemar, of Denmark, arrived at Bangkok on the 20th December. On New Year's Eve the Danish residents gave a ball in His Royal Highness's honour.

A doctor attached to the Osaka quarantine office has been attacked by plague. A quarantine official belonging to the same office, who was stricken by plague a short time ago, has died from the disease.

Captain Carl Reichmann, captain and quartermaster of the 17th United States Infantry, was to sail on the 10th inst. from Manila for South Africa, where he will act as United States Military Attache to the Boer army.

A contribution list to the Mansion House Patriotic Fund has been opened in Nagasaki. Up to the 11th inst. yen 2,139 had been subscribed. The amount collected is remitted to the Treasurer of the Fund in Hongkong.

A children's play has been given at Singapore in honour of Admiral Keppel, the proceeds being devoted to the War Relief Fund. He was to visit Johore on the 9th inst. accompanied by Lieut. Goodenough, of H.M.S. *Hermione*.

A Madras order, dated December 21st., states that Lieutenant A. B. Johnson, 1st Lancashire Regiment, having been selected for appointment as subaltern in the Chinese Regiment, is directed to proceed at once to Wei-Hai-Wei.

The Russian cruiser *Pamiat Azova* left Nagasaki on the 9th inst. for Odessa via ports, having completed her commission on this station. The *Vladimir Monomakh*, *Zabiyak* and *Gaidamak* also left Nagasaki the same day for Port Arthur.

The Italian flagship *Carlo Alberto*, with Rear-Admiral Grenet on board, arrived at Nagasaki on the 8th instant from Shanghai. The flagship was to undergo repairs at the local Mitsui Bishi Dockyard, and was thence to proceed to Yokohama by way of Kobe.

It is stated that the American transport *Morgan City*, which went ashore last summer at Ononichi, in Bungo, can be raised at a cost of 65,000 yen, and that her repairs subsequently will cost 80,000 yen. The question of undertaking the work is now under consideration.

We are informed that, subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation propose to pay at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of £1 10s. per share, a bonus of 10s. per share, add \$500,000 to the Reserve Fund, and carry forward about \$965,000.

Mr. William F. Sands, Secretary of the United States Legation at Seoul, has been appointed Military Adviser to the Emperor of Korea, succeeding Mr. Greathouse, who died a few months ago. Mr. Sands has a good service record and was formerly Second Secretary of the U. S. Legation at Tokyo.

A general meeting of shareholders of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha is to be held on the 23rd inst. The net profit of the last half year was yen 361,524.392, which is an increase of yen 114,381.040 compared with the earnings (yen 246,873.353) for the first year. A dividend of 9 per cent. per annum will be declared.

The contributions to the fund for Widows and Orphans of British soldiers killed in South Africa, acknowledged by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Manila, on the 9th inst., amounted to \$7,352. Of this sum \$3,234 was contributed by Chinese, who spontaneously contributed as a mark of gratitude for the valuable protection accorded to Chinese subjects in Manila by the British Consulate during the Spanish-American war.

H.E. Li Hung-chang, who is on his way to Canton to take up the appointment of Viceroy of the Two Kwang, arrived at Hongkong from the North on the 14th inst. by the M.M. steamer *Ernest Simons*. His Excellency called on the Governor on the 15th, after which re-embarked on the China Merchants' steamer *Hsin Yu* for Canton. A large number of officials came down from Canton to meet him. The 18th instant has been fixed as the date for his taking over the seals. His Excellency is attended by Lord Li and a numerous retinue.

The Moukden correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—Even among the Chinese in this remote corner the war in Africa has stirred up a great amount of interest. Said an intelligent and scholarly man the other day—"This African business must be completed in a business-like fashion or more serious results will follow." From Peking and Tientsin news came here at an early date of the serious reverses to the English troops at the outset of the war when the Hussars and the Gloucesters fell into the hands of the Boers. Other wars in other places have been notified with all the assurance begotten of telegraphic dispatches. The last curious one was to the effect that the Russian railway is not completed to this city because the Japanese, who are at war with Russia, intercepted the rails at sea!

Mr. J. O'Brien, an Englishman from London, and a professional prospector, who was taken at Malolos on January 27, 1899, whilst seeking a permit from Aguinaldo to go through the lines to prospect the interior, and who recently returned with the rescued Gilmore party, makes interesting statements, says the *Manila Times*, about the mountainous regions of Cagayan Province, the mineral resources of interior Luzon. Mr. O'Brien says that he thinks Northern Luzon, from what he has seen of it, is a good gold-bearing country, and that he has also observed good copper indications and signs of coal. The gold is not to be found in quartz formation to any extent, although there may be plenty of it, but there seem to be rich alluvial deposits. He thinks that it will be mainly placer mining if ever the country is opened up for mineral development, as the streams abound in free gold, especially in the north. Not long ago some of the U. S. army scouts returned to Manila from the northern country bringing some excellent samples of free gold, mostly in small nuggets, which they claimed they found a native picking from the sand in the side of a bluff, and others who have come from the interior brought samples of the yellow metal. Mr. O'Brien says that the Igorrote tribe is very friendly toward the Americans and bitterly antagonistic to the Tagalos.

A REMEDY FOR THE WEST RIVER PIRACY.

(Daily Press 19th, January.)

The scandalous state of affairs now existing in the Canton Delta and the lower waters of the West River, as revealed in the latest report of piracy and brigandage in that region, must be an apology for again calling public attention in the colony to this well-worn topic. It is evident that something must be done; the question is, who is to do it? Will the Chinese Government restore order in this turbulent province or shall the British Government—not for the first time by any means—do it for them? Let us consider the first alternative. During the reign of the now departed Viceroy TAN the lawless characters in Southern Kwangtung have practically had a free hand. They have plundered native passenger boats, they have exacted toll from all merchandise passing through their "sphere of influence;" they have even held up foreign steamers and seized steam-launches with impunity.

"Camps" of soldiers have been sent against them; strongest orders (on paper) have been issued to the local officials to disperse these bands; threats of exemplary punishment have been directed against those who should fail to stay the scourge. Has a single pirate stronghold been broken up? Has one incompetent official, civil or military, been dismissed? We have not heard of it. The pirates are stronger now than they were six months ago; the danger to life and property on the West River is greater. Much is hoped from the advent of LI HUNG CHANG. He is accounted a strong man and a preserver of order. But, with the means at his disposal, he can do nothing, even if he would. There is not a single properly trained soldier in the province; nothing but a rabble of undisciplined coolies, ready enough to sack a peaceful village, but quite unwilling to encounter men with arms who know how to use them. Gunboats in numbers are at the disposal of the Provincial Government, but they make no use of them. A Chinese gunboat seldom if ever visits Chu-tou-shan and the adjoining creeks, yet this is a notorious pirate stronghold. The guard boats which forage the river banks, and whose number—in view of the situation—has recently been augmented, have been known to complacently "stand by" when a passenger boat or launch has been pirated within fifty yards of them. From these facts we conclude that nothing is to be hoped for from the Chinese authorities.

It remains to consider the position of the British Government in China *vis-a-vis* this matter. The Hongkong community agitated for many years for the opening of the West River to foreign trade; the British Minister, in the face of great opposition from interested quarters, successfully brought it to pass and rightly gained much credit thereby.

The British flag is the only foreign flag—except the Portuguese—represented on the river; the foreign merchants who carry on the trade are of British or under British protection; the imports are chiefly British; the bulk of the exports go to Hongkong; we maintain British Consuls at the open ports; we go so far as to patrol the river with gunboats. Should we not, for our credit's sake, go a step further and put an end, once and for all, to this state of brigandage? Lest it should be said that we merely criticize and do not propose a remedy, we offer the following suggestion to the powers that be. The other day a British man-of-war's launch was fired on and forced to retreat from a village up a creek opposite Chu-tou-shan. Send the

Sandpiper to the village in question; summon the elders and demand that they give up the ringleaders in the recent attack or pay a heavy fine.

Failing this—and we do not think they would comply with these conditions—let the *Sandpiper* bombard the village till not a house is left standing. We think such action would meet with the approval of the foreign powers interested in the trade of South China, and an effectual stop could then be put to the plans of these gentry for some time to come.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE OPEN DOOR.

(Daily Press, 16th January.)

Although from the first there could be no doubt as to the eventual result of the war in South Africa, Russia and France seem earlier than the British Government to have realised its serious nature, and recognised the fact that for a time it would be necessary to concentrate its attention on the African States. The opportunity presented itself as a favourable one for meddling in the Far East now that the principal warplot was otherwise engaged, and, as Russia has just opened her communications with Primorsk by the completion of the Trans-Baikal section of her Pacific Railway, the hint has evidently been given to France that the moment was an opportune one for pressing her ambitions. Nothing loth to enter on the suggestion of her big friend, France has been seeking to make a diversion in the south, while Russia, with a better knowledge of her own wants and looking to a speedy absorption of Korea, has, in her silent and patient way, been seeking to place Japan in the wrong, so that she may enter on the coming contest untrammelled by at least diplomatic interference. Japan has committed so many mistakes—diplomatic blunders they may indeed be called—that the task does not seem a difficult one. As far as the continental nations are concerned, Russia's advance in Eastern Asia is looked upon with comparative indifference as a merely diplomatic matter, and hence the explanation of Russia's desire to lead Japan into a repetition of her former mistakes. The murder of the Queen and the petty interference in the palace *emulets* did more, for instance, to promote the advance of the former than any force of arms. In diplomacy a crime, as the witty Frenchman expressed it, is of far less moment than a blunder, and it is just this fact that lends more than ordinary importance to the present juncture. It is therefore, the more satisfactory that the two nations which have immensely the largest interests in the Pacific, England and the United States, are under the bonds of a common interest growing measurably nearer. The occupation by the United States of the Philippines has enlarged their interest in what to us is the Far East, and we find, to her credit, America is taking up, during her pre-occupation elsewhere, the part hitherto regarded as exclusively England's own. It is as an illustration of this feeling of a common interest that we hail with satisfaction the part being played by Mr. HAY in endeavouring to bring together into common accord the leading nations in their Chinese policy. The "Open Door" is, unfortunately, one of those sounding expressions which, having little intrinsic meaning of itself, lends itself to a different end as adopted by England, by Russia, and by France respectively. Russia's ideas of an open door are confined very much to a policy such as will facilitate

the entrance of Russia. This is simple, so simple, that Russia sees no difficulty in adopting the phrase, and is, as we have seen preparing to utilise it in Korea. With France the idea of an open door is a little more confused; it implies, logically, the closing of all other doors but one, over which France would stand as an ideal sentinel. Japan has displayed a yet further idea of an open door, which should admit of Japanese concessions everywhere. She contemplates, as the result of her open door, a scheme of colonisation, of subsidised steamers and pensioned residents. It is but natural then that these Powers should have been ready, as long as the "Open Door" remains merely an expression of diplomatic language, to consecrate with their approval so suggestive a word. What Mr. HAY's own idea of the "Open Door" may be we have as yet not the means of discovering. So far as the Government of the United States has hitherto declared its policy it is a generous one, and one which will commend itself to Englishmen, but this will scarcely be looked upon as a recommendation elsewhere, and it is this fact that leads us to cast some doubt on the *empressment* with which our very good friends, and especially Russia and France, have received the suggestion. It is, at all events, well to remember that Russia has been assiduously engaged in strengthening her military position in Eastern Siberia to an extent hardly called for for merely defensive purposes. The military occupation of Port Arthur could in itself hardly be accepted as a merely defensive step, but the occupation is only one of a series. Vladivostock has been converted into an arsenal of the first-class and bristles with troops, and Vladivostock is only the last of a closely connected chain. The so-called Volunteer Fleet has been assiduously carrying troops for the last three years, at first nominally as emigrants, but lately, without any pretence to concealment, as troops from European Russia to strengthen and raise the tone of the Asiatic troops sent overland to the eastern seaboard. Meanwhile, quietly and unostentatiously, the Siberian Railway has been advanced, till within the last few days we get the unexpected intelligence that the Trans-Baikal section has been completed—a work not contemplated, we have been told, for three years. These are certainly not needed for defence; they are hardly required in assertion of Russia's position as a nation, and bear on their face the ugly expression of being intended for aggressive purposes. Altogether Mr. B. Hay's suggestions have not come without reason; never was an understanding between England and the United States more needed. The Pacific question has, in fact, come to be the great problem of the twentieth century, and it behoves the two great nations most largely interested to be well guarded and work with a common understanding.

According to the official returns made by the Japanese Financial Department, the exports from the beginning of last year to the 25th ultimo amounted to 209,303,430 yen, while the imports for the same period reached the sum of 214,351,125 yen, showing an excess in imports of 5,050,645 yen. The exports show an increase of 92,818,755 yen and the imports a decrease of 5,450,278 yen, as compared with the returns for the corresponding period of the preceding year. The export of gold and silver specie and bullion for the same period amounted to 1,440,202 yen, a decrease of 76,163,740 yen as compared with 1898, while the import was 20,015,864 yen, also a decrease of 22,471,230 yen. In specie and bullion, therefore, the excess of imports amounted to the large sum of 9,575,862 yen.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

(Daily Press, 18th January.)

It is to be hoped that the present war in South Africa will not have the effect of delaying the construction of the Pacific cable. The lesson afforded by the war is that our telegraph system even to Africa is not equal to our requirements. The present Eastern Extension line to China, while barely sufficient for present circumstances, would be altogether inefficient were difficulties to arise, and has, in addition, the excessively dangerous drawback that not only is it laid in shallow waters capable of being tapped by a hostile cruiser, but that both northern and southern lines are actually dependent on foreign goodwill. The Great Northern line is entirely from Germany to Vladivostok through Russian territory, and the Eastern Company's cable is landed at Cape St. Jacques. Though it may not be necessary for sometime to lay an independent cable from Fauning Island or the Fijis to Borneo and Hongkong it is essential that everything should be prepared for undertaking the work. The British Government, in its arrangements about the Pacific Ocean, has not been neglectful of the requirements of a cable from Vancouver Island to Fiji, and has acquired by occupation or exchange the intermediate islands with the exception, of course, of the Hawaiian Archipelago. For its connections with Borneo it has not been equally farsighted, and any cable laid must be in waters more or less controlled by foreign powers. To a certain extent this seems now inevitable. The Carolines and the Solomon Group are now in the hands of Germany, and though, of course, no nation is entitled to monopolise the ocean this fact has to be taken into consideration. As the Chinese squadron is, besides the Mediterranean, the largest and most important of our permanent fleets, it is highly important for the national interest that it should be always in touch not only with home but with the Australian and Pacific detachments, and it cannot be alleged, after our experience in Africa, that the present system is at all satisfactory. We may call to notice the apparent apathy of the Governments concerned with regard to our Pacific lines when compared with the corresponding activity in the United States with regard to their communication with the Philippines. At the moment, though, as possessions, Hawaii and Luzon are of extreme importance, they are not so vital as Canada and Australia to England. A British Pacific cable would be on perfectly friendly terms with the American Government, and would, unless in the most remote eventuality, be always at the service of the United States, with whose development in the Pacific, England is in perfect sympathy. In the face of this acknowledged fact, America feels that it is due to herself and the position she occupies that she should be quite independent in the important matter of her telegraphic communications, and we can fully endorse the sentiment. No unfriendly spirit is indicated by our desire to keep in our own hands our communications, which is one, we take it, that affects our national pride in time of peace only a little less than in war time, when it becomes a matter of necessity to have no possible breaks in our communications. The importance of the Pacific Ocean to Great Britain as a nation has, in fact, been a plant of slow growth. To Great Britain in great measure was due the opening of the Great Ocean. It was only in the year 1742 that Lord Anson took the first British man-of-war

across and arrived after terrible sufferings at Canton. The voyage was really one of the events in that period. Up to that time the ocean was almost a closed lake in the occupation of Spain, and the world at large knew nothing of it till Captain Cook explored its mysteries. England had pretty well her own way in the solitary ocean until gold discoveries in California in the early fifties shed a sudden light on its importance. The opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway may be said to have commenced a third epoch, and now the hitherto deserted Pacific has become a highway amongst nations. To Englishmen its chief interest is that it reaches Canada on the north and Australasia in the south, but it should not be forgotten that it also leaves China on the west, and so brings England in connection with what in Europe is called the Far East, where England's interests are still the greatest. Nor is that all. To England the Far East is but the extension of that nearer East where England's power is paramount and which, at the same time, as a possibly vulnerable point demands all the care which such a jewel needs for its safekeeping. It is in respect to China and India that an untrammelled Pacific cable is likely to be of the highest importance, and, on behalf of both, we look with interest at the slow progress being made towards the realization of the project.

THE RECALL OF VICEROY TAN.

(Daily Press, 15th January.)

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* quotes from the *Kwo-wen-pao* a statement to the effect that the recall of Viceroy TAN is not entirely due to the French trouble, but is partly due to a strong British representation about the piracy which he has permitted and an insulting rejoinder which he made to an official representation thereon. We hope the statement is true, and there is some reason for believing that it may be so. Speaking at the dinner given in his honour by the China Association just before his departure from England, Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD referred to the lawlessness prevailing in China, and the present unsettled state of the West River owing to frequent and unpunished acts of piracy, and went on to say:—"I think the 'Tsunli Yamen are alive to the necessity of putting down these deeds of lawlessness with a firm hand. Shortly before I left 'Peking the president and members of the 'Board consulted me with regard to the 'best means of putting an end to this deplorable state of affairs. I said, hanging an official, the higher the better—I mean the 'higher the official—a Viceroy for choice.'" Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD on his return to China found the state of affairs on the West River worse than ever, and there is every reason why he should have urged the practical application of the policy of which he had so recently declared himself an advocate. During the brief period of his stay in Hongkong the Minister consulted with some of those best acquainted with the West River and is thoroughly posted as to the present conditions. If the removal of TAN is in any degree due to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's representations it must be accounted a gratifying success for British diplomacy. It will now devolve upon His Excellency to urge the adoption of a similar course with reference to the high officials of Szechuan in connection with the murder of the Rev. S. M. BROOKE by members of the "Boxers' Society." The officials in that province have shown no inclination to protect

foreigners, but, on the contrary, there is reason to believe that they have secretly approved of the anti-foreign agitation.

KWANGCHAUWAN.

(Daily Press, 15th January.)

Referring to the telegraphic announcement that Kwangchauwan is to be attached for administrative purposes to Indo-China, the *Avenir du Tonkin* says the arrangement will give the Indo-China Government an opportunity of making trial of a free port. Our contemporary hails the prospect with satisfaction, and says it is persuaded the trial will prove successful. The writer argues, however, as though it were optional to France to make the port free or not according to its own judgment. This, we believe, is not the case. The agreement under which the port was leased to France has not been made public, but presumably the terms are similar to those incorporated in the agreements referring to Kiaochow, Talienwan, and Weihaiwei, namely, that the port shall be open to the vessels and trade of all nations on equal terms. This condition would not preclude the imposition of Customs duties if that should be considered a necessary or desirable form of raising revenue, but in such case the duties would have to be levied on all alike and could not be used for protective purposes, that is to say, for giving an advantage to the trade of the nation owning the lease over that of other nations.

As to the commercial prospects of Kwangchauwan, while no doubt a considerable local trade may spring up if no official restrictions be placed upon it, it is unlikely that the port will become a great emporium. It is too near Hongkong to become a regular port of call or the seat of a large transshipment trade, especially as the harbour is much inferior to that of Hongkong and it could not offer any counterbalancing advantages in the way of economy, seeing that Hongkong is a free port, except as regards light dues, and is one of the cheapest places in the world for shipping. The fact, however, that other nations are in the field trying to divert trade from British ports to their own is one that ought to be taken note of by those who advocate the imposition of tonnage dues as a means of raising revenue. It should be a cardinal point in the policy of Hongkong to impose no additional burdens upon shipping, and it may even become necessary to sacrifice the existing light dues.

The Yue Kang Glue Factory Co., Ltd., has been successfully floated at Shanghai.

A branch Russo-Chinese Bank is to be opened in Kobe under the charge of Mr. E. Carlson.

The total value of exports at Nagasaki for last year amounted to Y6,196,550, and the imports to Y11,148,002.

The staff of the Telegraph Company at Singapore beat the midshipmen of the *Hermione* at water polo by two goals to one.

It is rumoured, writes the Tokyo correspondent of the *Nagasaki Press*, that the yearly subsidy of Y 880,000 granted to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha will be reduced by Y 260,000 and that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha will receive Y 180,000. On these sums the Treasury will save about Y 80,000. In 1889 the foreign trade of China (represented by nineteen out of the twenty-two ports) aggregated 469 million taels and grew to 610 million taels in 1898. During the same period the trade of the ports of Tientsin, Chetoo and Newchwang was 194 millions, collectively. The greater portion of the trade goes to Shanghai. The O.S.K. is rapidly following in the wake of the N.Y.K., that is, they are extending their Kobe-Newchwang-Tientsin-Amoy service.

EUPHRATES VALLEY RAILWAY AND CHINA.

(Daily Press, 17th January.)

Though not directly affecting China, the diplomatic victory gained by Germany in procuring the concession of the Euphrates Valley Railway cannot be without its ultimate effect on our relations with China. The history of the concession is a curious one and reflects the current of events for a century. It was the ambition of the Great EMPEROR NAPOLEON to acquire for France an empire in Syria, whence France was to rule the East and checkmate the advance of her great rival, England, in India. British victories in Egypt shattered the attempt, which, however, remained the dream of successive generations of Frenchmen. In 1832 IBRAHIM PASHA, instigated by the French, defeated the Turkish troops in Syria and took possession of Acre. The British threw in their entire influence with the Turks and in 1840, with their armed assistance, the citadel of St. Jean was recaptured and Turkish rule once more established in the Levant. The event well nigh led to open war between France and England, which, however, was averted by the Government of KING LOUIS PHILIPPE, and for many years England enjoyed the role of influential adviser throughout the Turkish dominions. The Turks, however, were but fickle friends. At one time England, at another France came to the front, and at times both for a time worked together, only to fall out after awhile. So affairs went on till Egypt proved a bone of contention, and France did her best to make a European combination against England. By this time Germany showed symptoms of her desire to take a hand in the game. Her people in their newborn unity were enlarging their commercial interests in the Levant, and her Government, ever ready to assist in the commercial advancement of the Empire, seconded their efforts. An understanding was come to with England that Germany would not interfere with her in Egypt, if on her side England left her a free hand in Syria. The outcome of this was the KAISER'S visit to Jerusalem, which, in spite of a good deal of chaffing criticism, resulted in a friendly understanding between the KAISER and the SULTAN. English policy in Turkey had been of an unnecessary irritating description. A Government pledged at home to revolutionising everything had thrown to the winds the traditional amenities of diplomacy, and had raised up an unfriendly feeling in every court in Europe. The Prime Minister himself, ignorant or careless of the good opinion of the world, had been using reckless language all round. The man who had hampered the traditional policy of the state and made the phrase "Bulgarian Atrocities" a byword of ineptitude found in the "Unspeakable Turk" a means of still further reducing the influence of his country. The interest of the nation in favour of the Armenian Christians was generous, and, carried out wisely, would have enhanced the respect due to the nation. A statesman like CROMWELL, by the force of his character and the knowledge that what he threatened he was in a position to enforce, saved from a cruel persecution the remnant of the Waldenses. Not so the hysteric screechings of a GLADSTONE, who, all the world knew, would be the first to run away from the *emeute* he had himself created. Europe looked on and smiled, but the Turk, ranking under the abusive language, but yet sneering at the threats, the sincerity of which he had learnt to assess at its true value, preferred to seek other advisers. It is now upwards of sixty years

since the idea of a Euphrates Railway was presented to an English public. The idea was taken up by the then generation of statesmen, and an exploring expedition under Colonel CHESNEY was sent to report on its feasibility. Those were the days of a PALMERSTON, who, in spite of frequent mistakes of temper, was essentially an Englishman, and in these days would be classed as an Imperialist. PALMERSTON consistently favoured the railway rather than the Suez Canal, as in those days it would have been entirely in British hands, while from the beginning he had his suspicions of the canal, which became in turn the pet scheme of France. There is little doubt now that PALMERSTON made one of his great mistakes in seeking to discredit the canal, and it remains a blot on ROBERT STEPHENSON'S character that he permitted his engineering judgment to be warped for a political purpose. STEPHENSON'S condemnation of the canal did not prevent its being made, but it prevented British energy and British capital being turned to its construction, and threw it into the hands of France. The proved success of the canal turned men's thoughts from the older scheme of the railway, and Colonel CHESNEY'S report was shelved and almost forgotten. This was asserted by the subsequent acquisition by DISRAELI of the KHEDIVÉ'S interest in the canal and the occupation of Egypt. As the English hold on Egypt lightened the influence at Constantinople decreased. Partly this was to be accounted for by natural reasons, but the main cause was the hysterical fit which had seized her traditional policy, and left her a rudderless hulk on the fitful ocean of popular caprice. Momentarily the nation was staggered and capital and enterprise retired to seek a refuge from the storm which seemed impending. This is probably the true explanation of that strange phase of industrial stagnation which has allowed Great Britain to remain stationary, while other nations, and especially Germany and the United States, have been forging ahead. The passage of the Euphrates Railway, from being a British project, into the hands of Germany, is, in fact, only another evidence of the extraordinary paralysis which began with the defeat of DISRAELI in Feb., 1868, and has had full swing for upwards of a quarter of a century. To us in China the story of the Euphrates line cannot but suggest unpleasant thoughts. From a not altogether dissimilar inaptitude we have had to look on at Peking, while our influence, once paramount, has been gradually frittered away. We have seen the same constant fretfulness, followed by a similar collapse at the end, we have threatened and threatened and, as if astonished at our own foolhardiness, have at once commenced to eat our own words. Is it any wonder that our threats have become a laughing stock, and that the unspeakable Empress places the same value on our brave words as does the unspeakable Turk at the Bosphorus? This is, we fear, the main interest which the Euphrates Valley Railway now has for British residents in China.

H. E. T'an Chung-lin, ex-Viceroy of the two Kuang provinces, and family arrived at Shanghai from Canton on 13th inst. in the China Merchants' steamer *Anping* which was conveyed by the Chinese cruiser *Kuangyi*. H. E. did not land, although Ambassador's Hall, North Homan Road, had been prepared for his reception by the local mandarins, but changed the same day into the *Kiangfoo* bound for the Yangtze, permission having been granted from Peking for H. E. to visit his native province, Hunan, before going up for Imperial audience.

THE PROVINCE OF SHANTUNG.

ITS TRADE, POPULATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

(BY M. O'S.)

Now that Prince Henry of Prussia has turned the first sod in the new German railway system in Shantung it may be of interest to show the province as it was five years ago, and venture a few observations as to the future possibilities of commercial enterprise in this historical unit of the "Middle Kingdom."

Shantung, in the eyes of the student of Chinese classics, is a favoured province on account of its being the birthplace of Confucius, and many are the pilgrimages made to the tomb of 'the master' at the quiet little town of Ch'ü-fou-hsien, situated thirty Chinese li, or about ten English miles, east of Yen-Chou-fu. The province is also remarkable because the longest canal in the world passes through it, and likewise the Whang-ho or Yellow River—a waterway that has, perhaps, caused more sorrow and suffering than any other river on earth, and, lastly, it was within its boundaries that the first seizure of territory took place since the Japan-China War, marking a new era in the affairs, not only of the Dragon Throne, but also of the Far East.

The name of the province is derived as follows, namely, *Shan*, a hill, and *Tung*, east. Both these characters are ideographic symbols, that is, they are intended to convey an idea in their form. The first is supposed to represent jagged mountain tops, i.e. hills, while the second is formed of *trees*, and *the sun shining through the branches* is east, hence the meaning of the name Shantung is "East of the hills"—*en passant*, I may mention that powers of inference are a necessary part of the traveller's equipment in China!

HOW TO GET THERE.

Should the traveller elect to visit Shantung he can at present do so with ease by taking steamer from Shanghai to Kiaochow bay Wei-hai-wei, or Chefoo, and in each case he is, in trans-Pacific phraseology, "right thoro." Should he desire to see a little of the interior of China he can approach his goal either from the south via Chinkiang and the Grand Canal to Chinkiang'pu, from which point he should leave his house-boat and continue his journey by pony, mule-cart, or wheelbarrow—the latter equipped with sails—or he can ride or take cart from Tientsin. Having entered the province from the various points named, I recommend the more adventurous globe-trotter to adopt the newly-opened Shanghai-Kiaochow bay route, and from this point proceed inland. Let us suppose, however, that he rides down from Peking or Tientsin. From either city in good going weather the journey will occupy seven days' march. In the wet season of the year—July to September—this may be indefinitely prolonged, as the roads at times become almost impassable, and the plains are transformed into lakes of no mean depth. The surface of the ground is one series of plains, stretching from beyond Peking to the Yellow River, and in the spring and early summer seasons they present to the gaze one waving green expanse, broken only where the eye is arrested by some village or walled town. When within about thirty miles or so of the Hwang-ho we catch our first sight of the Shantung hills, foremost among which stands the celebrated *Tai Shan*, one of China's sacred mountains, attaining an altitude of over 5,000 feet, and whose summit, crowned by temples, is usually crowded with pilgrims. The ascent of this mountain is made by a winding road twelve miles in length, which is one long flight of steps, and for the first portion of the uphill journey very beautiful. Cypress trees line either side. Periodical pilgrimages are made to these temples—especially during the eighth moon—by thousands of worshippers, and, as in other similar sacred or historical places in the East, beggars, who appear to vie with one another in physical and moral wretchedness, are found in great numbers and appear to collect small fortunes in alms. To those who are acquainted with Burmah, a great similarity would be seen to exist between the temples of the *Tai Shan* and those of the Shway Dagon Pagoda at Rangoon. These flights of

steps are well worn by the tread of pilgrims who have frequented this place for over 4,000 years. Situated at the base of Tai Shan is the city of Tai-An-fu, in which are located over 800 shops for the sale of gilt-paper offerings for the gods of the sacred mountain, and a good business is, I am told, done with the pilgrims who, I may add, are squeezed for all things two-thirds more than the ordinary inhabitants. Have we foreigners, I wonder, much to learn from the Chinese in this respect?

THE "CHINESE" SORROW.

To return, however, we at last catch sight of the Shantung hills, and an onward journey of thirty miles brings us to the town of Che-ho, situated at a bend of the Yellow River or Chinese Sorrow, as it is not inaptly styled by the natives. Here the difficulty and duration of the passage across is dependent upon the season of the year. For instance, I once crossed the river on the 27th January when en route from the Yangtse to Peking. The ice was at that time almost formed across, the actual boat passage being not more than 150 yards. Again I crossed at the same place on 14th June, when the water covered an expanse of over 300 yards, and such was the strength of the current that it took the flat-bottomed barge over half-an-hour to tack up stream in order to gain the required landing on the opposite side. Once more I passed over the Yellow River at the same crossing on 5th August, but ere I could reach the place of embarkation I had to travel on an embankment. Running at right angles to the river for a distance of three miles the surrounding country was flooded and the water still rising, and I was not surprised to learn later on that it had been swept away and many lives had been lost.

Situated at the western side of this ferry is a village which when I last crossed was certainly 20 ft. lower than the river surface, which was still rising, and at that time only within a few feet of the top of the embankment, which showed every sign of having a tendency to give way, notwithstanding which the many hundreds of inhabitants were carrying on their daily routine heedless of the approaching danger. To our Western ideas, does not this trait in the Chinese character seem very strange? When crossing the Hwangho the first fact which must strike the traveller forcibly is that if railways are being carried along in its vicinity great care must be taken in making the banks of approach to the bridges of far more than the ordinary dimensions and strength. Once across this sadly historical river our route lies S.S.E. to the capital of Shantung, and the distance is about ten miles.

THE CAPITAL.

The ground from the river to the North Gate of Tsinan-fu is low and swampy, and by experience I find that the traveller, if riding, can with much more ease and advantage make this short journey by turning east, and proceeding on top of the inner embankment to the port of the capital, Loh-Koh, distanced but four miles from the North Gate. The direct road from the Yellow River is, more or less, always in a swampy condition, but the "going" on the embankment is always excellent for man and beast. Carts, of course, are not permitted to take this short cut. Tsinan-fu, the capital, is without doubt a city of the first class in every respect. It lies at the foot of the range of hills before alluded to and its bearings are 36 deg. 50 min. N. lat. 117° E. long, and it has a gradual slope from south-west to north-east. Situated in the south-west suburb are magnificent springs, giving forth many tons of water (of more than the ordinary excellence of composition and lustre) per minute, and, as a consequence, the streams flowing from these natural fountains and through the city to a lake situated on the north side tend to make this one of the most clean and healthy cities in the Empire. Its markets rival those of any other city inland and its mercantile trade is very large. In the summer evenings the lake before alluded to is visited by pleasure parties, and across the water can be heard the merry sounds of music and laughter. Excursions too are frequently made to the various temples situated upon the neighbouring hills, and altogether the gilded youth of the metropolis appears to take his pleasures not sadly. Tsinan-fu being the headquarters of the Governor and high officials, as a

natural consequence very considerable traffic takes place between it and the various head-centres of officialdom within the province. The residents of this city, who number over 100,000 souls, include a Mohammedan colony of 20,000, who (as usual in China) reside in the immediate vicinity of the West Gate suburb. Both within and without the city are located various Christian missions. At a distance of about five miles due east of Tsinan-fu rises a small, almost conical hill, composed wholly of a magnetic iron. Other similar hills lie scattered over this district and appear to be of volcanic origin. Passing onwards from the capital our route to the new port lies at the base of the hills, which at intervals present to the eye a beautiful contrast to the green expanse which stretches in an unbroken line to the horizon, similar in appearance to the paddy fields of Burmah and Siam. The next town of importance encountered en route is Tsouping (or Joping), charmingly situated at the foot of the hills, which at this point average their highest altitude, always excepting the Tai Shan, which stands alone and more to the west.

A LARGE TRADE CENTRE.

This town is a large trade centre, and by the many groves of mulberry trees visible throughout the district it does not require any stretch of imagination to realize that silk is a large industry here. A stroll through the streets will at once dispel any existing doubts upon the subject, for displayed to the gaze are banks of this valuable commodity in a large number of the shop windows, and the supply would appear to be abundant. I am informed, however, that this trade is decreasing year by year, and that its dimensions are inconsiderable at present in comparison with the past. This is traceable to two causes: (1) The excessive cost of transport. (2) The fact that the people are bound down (illegally) to sell their silk through a middleman, who is required to report such sales to the local officials, who stand in with a speculation ring, and gladly as the people would export their produce to Chefoo and reap the higher rates usually paid by Europeans, they are unable to do so. Every year a French gentleman travels inland from the treaty port to purchase what silk he can, and his advent is looked forward to with eagerness by those who are untrammelled by this coercion, namely, the native Roman Catholics. Here an English missionary, of independent means, has planted South American cotton, which grows exceedingly well in this district, and in the future may add materially to the wealth of certain portions of Shantung. I must mention that the soil of this province varies very considerably, for instance, two days' march may carry one through, say a first-class fruit and cotton district, while the next fifty miles or so may lead through a country where it does not pay to cultivate these products, but which may be excellent bean-cake and straw-braid centres. I was informed that the straw raised on the dark brown soil yielded as the sally switch to the skilful manipulations of the braid manufacturers, while that grown upon other soil was liable to crack or break off short.

THE COAL DISTRICT.

From Tsouping the route lies to Chih-Ch'wan, another trade centre of importance, and from this point we must turn off south from the 'Great Road' and travel up the Lau-pu valley to Po-shan and Yen-shing, the two busiest towns of their size in Shantung. Here are situated the mines whose coal has been pronounced by experts to be the best in North China. Here also are the potteries, the produce of which we meet with daily being hauled in barrows all over the country. At this place also are the famous glass manufactories of the province. The towns of Po-shan and Yen-shing are surrounded by fine walls and lie exactly at the head of the valley and are separated only by a stream about fifty yards broad. They present to the eye in a very diminutive manner the appearance of English manufacturing towns when viewed from a distance, more so, indeed, than any towns known to me in China. The very inhabitants are begrimed with the 'clean dirt' of their factories. Water pure as crystal rushes through the sloping streets of Po-shan in well kept stone-paved viaducts, lending to the town a cleanliness savory, to say, exceptional in the Chinese Empire. From Po-shan we must

retrace our steps down this happy valley to Chih Ch'wan, which, I may remark, is also the head centre of an extensive coal mining district. From here our course lies to Tsingchow-fu which is the ancient capital of the province and still a city of much importance. Like Tsouping, it lies at the foot of the hills and is, I believe, considered to be the head centre of the silk trade in Shantung. At Tsingchow-fu a large Manchu garrison is upheld, and, as in all parts of China where the reigning dynasty have placed their troops, the Tartars occupy a separate walled city of their own. From here we must proceed onward to Wei Hsien, which to my thinking is the Clapham Junction of the province. Besides being a large business centre, nearly all the trade of the province passes through it, and imports and exports nearly all find their destination prior to redistribution. From this highly important head centre to Chefoo, the original 'open port,' the journey occupies six good days' march, but to Tsing-tan, at Kiaochow Bay via Kiao Mi it occupies but three and half days. From Wei Hsien let us continue our journey to Kiaochow, and thence to the mouth of the bay and our tour from a birdseye point of view is completed.

IS THE PROVINCE RICH?

"The rich province of Shantung" is a phrase I frequently hear repeated. Is this correct? Strange though it may appear a contradictory answer can truthfully be returned, "Yes and No!" and as a proof of this let us take for granted that no attempt at estimating the population of Shantung has proved better than the official figures, and, therefore, we take the population at thirty millions, which is probably, in my opinion a low estimate. The total area of the province is 65,100 square miles, or 41½ millions of English acres, or 85 millions of large mow. Here it is necessary to observe that Chinese measurements are variable even in the same province. The Shantung large mow contains one-ninth less than half an English acre.

Now let us suppose an extreme case, viz., that every inch was laid down under wheat for one year like a European country, what would the result be? What would it produce? The answer is simple enough. Taking the ordinary yield of fair average ground in average years it would only give them 12½ baskets of grain per inhabitant; but as in Shantung they have three crops in two years, and as red millet yields 60 per cent. more than wheat, this raises the entire average produce of the whole of the province to a little over 18½ bushels per inhabitant for all kinds of grain, not even leaving the thirty millions of people standing ground! The English, Irish and Scotch consume 17 bushels of grain per inhabitant, the Germans 16, the French 25, and the Russians, who I take it are nearest to the Chinese in poverty and circumstances, consume 20 bushels of grain per inhabitant, but the Shantung man to get 18½ must sow every inch of his country. Now, of course, all the land cannot be cultivated. There must be a certain allowance made for mountains, sand and soda, waste morasses, river beds, lakes, roads, paths, towns, villages and burial places—the last being a disastrously large item. The proportion of uncultivated land varies in different countries. In Great Britain, France and Germany the proportion of uncultivated land is 40 per cent., in Italy and Denmark the uncultivated ground is only 33 per cent., but in Russia and Spain the uncultivated ground amounts to 80 per cent. I propose to fix the uncultivated ground in Shantung at 25 per cent., as I feel sure that at least one fourth must come off the cultivated area. That will reduce the grain producing area to 63½ millions of large mow. But then grain that has to be eaten is not the only thing that has to be raised. The Shantung man wants cotton for cloths, and bedding, paper, mats, rope, and twine, oil for cooking and light, salt, sugar, tea, tobacco, matches, millstones, a boiler, a pan, knives, kettles, crockery, medicines, weapons and farm utensils. He has to engage the services of the mason and carpenter, the smith and the cotton scutcher. He generally wants some skin cloths to keep him warm outside during the winter months, and perhaps some alcohol to use inside—certainly numbers seem to have it. I reckon that fruit may be grown on the waste ground (i.e. the hill sides) and that the

vegetables are represented in the corn area. This is a long list of personal indispensables for so poor a people: but there is more to add to this, for although the Shantung man can almost dispense with coal, wood and bricks, and although he needs no pasture land for meat, milk butter and cheese beyond that afforded by the mountain slopes and river beds, still the land has to provide for these and other general expenses such as beasts that aid in the cultivation and do the haulage or carrying of the country both as to fodder and corn. The pigs which furnish the pork have to get their share, likewise there must be a provision for paying Imperial taxes and local imposts, as well as for road, bridge and temple repairs, for marriages and burials (destructively large items), and if anything is done at it, for education. Rent I have not mentioned, for when ground is rented it generally takes all the profit. Seed corn has to be thought of, and forms a charge of from one to three per cent. To provide for all these things I estimate that the produce of one-fifth of the cultivated area (20 per cent.) must go at the very least. The natives contend strongly that it takes more than 20 per cent. of their produce to exchange for other necessities but I resist this contention on the ground that were such the case there would not be enough left to support life in the province. Other stations spend about 37½ to 43 per cent. on things outside their food, but I do not think that the Shantung people do, for if they did it would only leave them 8½ bushels of grain per inhabitant, on which they could not exist for 365 days, and then one-third of that would have to be coarse red millet. We see then that after this moderate estimate the available area for breadstuffs proper has to be reduced 12½ millions of large *mow*, leaving a net area of somewhat under 51½ millions of large *mow*, being one and one-fifth English acres per inhabitant. The deduction of one fourth from the produce of the whole area as an allowance for unproductive ground, and the deduction of a still further one-fifth from the remainder to provide for necessities outside breadstuffs consumed, reduces the actual amount of grain of all sorts available for consumption down to 11½ bushels per head per year. That is less than two-thirds of what an Englishman consumes in addition to all his meat and cheese, milk, butter and eggs, &c. It is about two-thirds of what a Frenchman uses and hardly half of what the Russian peasant gets. Of this 11½ bushels four-ninths must be coarse red millet, of the remaining five-ninths half must be beans. These Shantung people breathe each day, just as we do 30 ozs. of oxygen, and they require 2½ or 3 lbs. of bread to carbonise it as we do, but they only get 1½ to 2 lbs. Such is the case with the average man; but what of those who in life's struggle get much less than this small share, which goes to make the abundance and wealth of the more fortunate? The foregoing figures show that the average cost of a Shantung man's bread is little over 20,000 *small cash*. If you add the cost of his clothing and other needs it comes to about 26,000 *small cash*, which in 1895 amounted to Taels 6½ and 8½ respectively. If the entire produce of the cultivated area were converted into *cash*, divided between landholders of ten large *mow* each their yearly family expenses in *cash* estimated, the total of these expenses found and subtracted from the value of the grain, much the same result would be arrived at, only it would leave still less corn for them to eat and is, therefore, inadmissible as a method of estimating except as proving the line I have laid down to be fairly correct. Speaking in terms of grain, the inhabitants of England, France, Germany and Russia have approximately twenty bushels of corn to eat. The Shantung man has only 11½ at the very outside. The people of England, France and Germany have two and one-sixth acres to cultivate. The Shantung man has only one and one-fifth to cultivate. Little I fear exists to modify all this. There are exports and imports, but the silk does not more than pay for the calico, nor the beancakes more than pay for the corn, and I question whether the strawbraid, dates and vermicelli more than pay for the cloth, paper, opium and sundries they use from the outside. Their coal only suffices for themselves, likewise their iron. Their export of crockery and glass to other provinces cannot be very large

and the profit on cattle raised on uncultivated lands is only what all people have, and is not a very considerable item even in their own eyes. Now to land and agriculture. The average rent of land in the United Kingdom, France and Germany is £1 per acre, or, say, 3 per cent. on the value in those countries. In Shantung the average rent of land is 18s. 4d. per acre, or, say, 8 per cent. to 9 per cent. on the value. Money raised in England on land costs 4 per cent. to 5 per cent. per annum interest on loan. Money raised in Shantung on land costs about 22 per cent. interest on loan per annum. Average land in England yields twenty-eight bushels of wheat per acre. Average land in Shantung in the best years yield 13½ bushels per inhabitant. In ordinary years only ten bushels per acre.

(To be continued.)

SUPREME COURT.

15th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOR W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

ADMITTED AS A BARRISTER.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock said he begged leave to apply under the provisions of section 5, Ordinance 3, of 1871, that Charles James Naylor might be approved, admitted, and enrolled as a barrister in that honourable court. His Lordship would see that this application was supported by two affidavits, one by Mr. Naylor himself and the other by Mr. McLenna. These affidavits showed that Mr. Naylor was admitted to the honourable society of the Inner Temple on the 12th Jan., 1888. He was called to the bar shortly afterwards, and since then he had been abroad to various places. In the year 1892 he was admitted to practice in Bombay and he practised there until 1894, when he was admitted to practice in the Consular Court at Bangkok, and he had continued to practice there until recently. His Lordship would find annexed to the affidavit by Mr. Naylor the usual certificate saying that he was called to the Inner Temple, and there was an affidavit by Mr. McLenna saying that he knew Mr. Naylor and that he knew he had been practicing as a barrister-at-law in Bangkok.

His Lordship said the preliminary conditions seemed to have been complied with, and therefore he had pleasure in approving, admitting and allowing Mr. Naylor to be enrolled as a barrister of the Supreme Court of this Colony.

Mr. Naylor—Thank you my Lord.

KWONG WO SENG V. CHENG SHOON LEE

This was a claim for goods bought as commission agents, etc.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Dennys and Cowley) said he appeared for the plaintiffs and he had obtained leave from the Court to proceed *ex parte*. His Lordship would see from the writ of summons that this was a claim by the plaintiffs against the defendant, who was formerly a partner in the Nam Shoon Hong, carrying on business at Famsui, Formosa, for a sum of \$11,470.94 and interest, that sum being the balance due and owing by the defendant to the plaintiffs for goods bought on commission by the direction of the defendant when he was a partner in the Nam Shoon Hong.

Formal evidence having been given,

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiffs for the amount claimed, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. from July 18th, 1897.

17th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

THE CHONG KI V. LEUNG WING KAI.

This was a claim for \$500, as damages for the infringement of the plaintiff's exclusive right to keep dross opium shops at Tung Lung Chau and Quarry Bay.

Mr. Mounsey (Messrs. Mounsey and Brutton) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Ewens for the defendant.

Mr. Mounsey read the petition and answer. The petition said the plaintiff was a dross opium dealer residing at No. 17, Irving Street, and the defendant was the dross opium farmer residing at No. 46, Queen's Road West. In or about the month of December, 1897, the defendant addressed a certain document in the nature of a circular note or letter to certain of the dross opium dealers and opium divan keepers in the colony, inviting them to tender for the right to deal in dross opium at the various villages in the colony, and in consequence of such circular note or letter the plaintiff was induced to, and, in fact, did, tender for the right to deal in dross opium in the villages of Tung Lung Chau and Quarry Bay. At the time of making his said tenders the plaintiff deposited with the defendant a sum of \$20 in respect of such tenders for each of the said villages. The amount of the plaintiff's tender in respect of Tung Lung Chau was \$136 per Chinese month and that for the village of Quarry Bay was \$43 per Chinese month. The plaintiff having submitted the highest tenders for the villages in question, such tenders were accepted by the defendant for a term of three years, and the plaintiff, after paying to the defendant the sum of \$139, being the balance due on the said tenders for rent for the first month of the said term, commenced the business of a dross opium dealer at Tung Lung Chau and Quarry Bay. On or about the 15th day of October, 1899, the defendant, contrary to all usage and custom, and in violation of the rights of the plaintiff under such license, opened a dross opium shop at Tung Lung Chau and commenced to carry on the business of a dross opium dealer in opposition to the plaintiff, where by the plaintiff suffered considerable loss and damage in his business of a dross opium dealer. The plaintiff therefore prayed (1) that the Court would order and decree that the plaintiff had an exclusive right for the term of three years from the 1st March, 1898, to deal in dross opium at the villages of Tung Lung Chau and Quarry Bay; (2) that the defendant should pay to the plaintiff the sum of \$500 by way of damages, (3) and that the defendant do pay to the defendant his costs of suit and such other and further relief as the nature of the case might require. The answer stated that the defendant denied paragraph 1 of the petition except that the defendant admitted that he was the dross opium farmer. The defendant denied that the plaintiff ever tendered or was induced to tender for the right to deal in dross opium, or that any person was ever accepted for any place, but admitted the rest of paragraph 2. The defendant denied paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the petition.

The plaintiff, having given evidence, was cross examined by Mr. Ewens. He said he had taken out several monthly licenses. The last license he took out was taken out after the writ in this suit was issued and had expired. He had not read the license.

Mr. Ewens read from the license a paragraph which stated that the license was for one month only and could be withdrawn at any time.

The plaintiff said he got his privilege by tender, and was to pay for his license monthly. The license was only good for a month, when he had to renew it. He had not renewed the last one. He admitted that the opium farmer had the right to issue as many licenses as he pleased in the city, but in the villages the number was limited.

His Lordship said it appeared from the license that the witness had only a license to sell dross opium. The only man who could sell exclusively was the opium farmer.

Mr. Mounsey said the defendant invited tenders for permission to open shops in certain places. Several tenders were sent in to him and he accepted the highest. The defendant's idea was to let out these tenders for the different villages in order to save himself trouble for the whole of the three years which he derived from the Government. The defendant took the highest tender and said, "Very well, I will accept you for three years, but I can only grant you a license for a month at a time. So long as you go on paying me this monthly tender I shall renew your license." The tender had not been renewed this month, but the term had only just expired.

His Lordship pointed out that there was nothing in the license to prevent the defendant granting a license for another shop.

It was just the same as a license for the sale of arms.

The plaintiff said the circular which the defendant sent out said the tender was for the exclusive right. He had not the circular with him.

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

January 18th.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HON. W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

The Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), instructed by Messrs. Dennys and Bowley (Crown Solicitors), prosecuted.

A PASSAGE OF ARMS BETWEEN HIS LORDSHIP AND MR. FRANCIS.

Pang Hing Yau and Pang Tak Ying were charged (1) with forging a deed with intent to defraud and (2) with conspiracy to cheat and defraud. The second prisoner was also charged with personating with intent fraudulently to obtain certain property.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the prisoners.

Mr. Francis asked if his Lordship would permit him at that stage to state that the learned Attorney-General was willing to accept a plea of guilty on the count "conspiracy to cheat and defraud" if the Court saw no objection.

His Lordship—If the Attorney-General is satisfied with that course I have no objection.

Mr. Pollock—I am perfectly satisfied.

Mr. Francis said that if his Lordship would kindly adjourn the question of sentence till Monday he would be obliged. He wished to file affidavits in extenuation.

His Lordship said he did not know about Monday. There was only one other case. He had had a good deal of experience in criminal work, and he had never known an application for sentence to be deferred several days. He had heard an application to postpone sentence until the following day.

Mr. Francis said the same necessity did not exist here which existed at home. He added that he meant Saturday and not Monday. He was thinking that that day was Friday.

His Lordship—There is no reason why you should not state facts in extenuation.

Mr. Francis said he did not wish to file affidavits to dispute the plea or finding on that plea, but simply to set out matters in extenuation, and to explain a little more fully than appeared on the depositions that it was a family affair.

His Lordship—If the prisoners plead guilty I have no objection to a statement as to the facts.

Mr. Francis—I only got the information within the last quarter of an hour.

His Lordship—That is the fault of the system here and I want to alter the system.

Mr. Francis—The information was only delivered to the solicitors by the defendants yesterday evening at five o'clock.

His Lordship said there was something in that, but added that they had got into the system in Hongkong lately of people never being ready at the trial and application being made to adjourn a case for several days. When the Criminal Sessions were opened a man must be ready to take his trial.

Mr. Francis—Your Lordship sees I am only asking you to adjourn the sentence.

Mr. Pollock—I would suggest that if these men want to make any explanation it should be made to-day.

His Lordship (to Mr. Francis)—We will hear what the men have to say or what you have to say on their behalf.

Mr. Francis said he was applying according to the recognised practice of criminal courts in cases of misdemeanour to file affidavits in extenuation. He had nothing further to say. It had been the constant practice of that Court, and if his Lordship liked to refuse the application he had nothing more to say.

His Lordship—Are you not prepared with the facts upon which your affidavits are founded?

Mr. Francis—Broadly.

His Lordship referred to the practice in England, namely, that before the sentence a prisoner or his counsel was permitted to say what he wished in mitigation of the sentence, but it was not usual to adjourn sentence to enable a prisoner to make affidavits.

Mr. Francis said he was not so well acquainted with the practice in England as was his Lordship, but he was relying on the practice of that Court, where he had never known it questioned before.

His Lordship—Will to-morrow morning be any good to you?

Mr. Francis—Very little, because I shall be in Court all day to-day.

His Lordship—But suppose we finish to-day, why should I come on Saturday for your affidavits?

Mr. Francis—I think, your Lordship, I may venture to suggest that your time is at the disposal of the public and in the interests of the prisoners.

His Lordship—So it is, but if I am not taking one matter I am taking another.

Mr. Francis repeated that there had previously been no objection to such an application.

His Lordship—I want to get into a regular system. I consider that when prisoners are brought up for trial they should be prepared to meet the charges against them. The solicitors should instruct counsel at the proper time.

Mr. Francis—The Attorney-General should file his information at the proper time.

His Lordship—Solicitors should instruct counsel at the proper time, and prisoners should be prepared with all the facts they wish to bring into Court.

Mr. Francis—We could not bring affidavits before we knew whether the Attorney-General would accept our proposal or not, and I would suggest, with all deference to your Lordship, that I do not think it is the function of the Acting Chief Justice to alter a practice which has been in existence thirty years.

His Lordship—You always have a manner of speaking that way, as if you know more of Courts than anyone else. I have had to do with ten times more criminal cases than you. During ten years' experience of Criminal Courts I never know an application, after the prisoner had been convicted, for an adjournment for about four days to prepare affidavits in defence.

Mr. Francis—I have been practising thirty-five years.

His Lordship—Then you ought to know something about the practice.

Mr. Francis—I hope your Lordship does not think I am saying what is not true?

His Lordship—I decline to adjourn till Monday. I give you till to-morrow morning to file your affidavits.

The prisoners were then formally charged and pleaded guilty to the count mentioned by their counsel and sentence was adjourned until Friday.

ALLEGED ARMED ROBBERY AT LYCEMOON.

There were four counts in the indictment against Chung Shing Fat, viz, (1) robbery, being armed; (2) robbery, being armed; (3) shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm; and (4) assault. The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The following were sworn on the jury:—Messrs. E. J. Moses, W. W. Campbell, J. E. Gomes, R. B. Cooper, R. Henderson, C. J. T. Lea and F. A. Brown.

Mr. Francis (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) had been retained for the defence.

Mr. Pollock said that some time in the afternoon of the 10th December last Lam Yin, the prosecutor, went on board a boat at Shauiwan. Besides himself and the boatwoman there were six or seven other people, including the prisoner. They crossed the Lyceemoo Pass and landed at the village of Lyceemoo. The prosecutor was walking along the beach in the direction of Kowloon when he noticed three men coming down a hillside towards him. He recognised them as being the prisoner and two other men who had come over in the boat. The prisoner pointed a revolver at him, upon which the prosecutor naturally ran away. The three men gave chase, and the prisoner fired two shots at him but without effect. The prosecutor was making the best of his way back to the village of Tyceemoo, and was passing a house apparently belonging to the prisoner, when

the latter called out "Seize!" Three men came out of the house, and, finding himself hemmed in the prosecutor jumped into the sea, having previously thrown \$40 in ten cent pieces which he was carrying in his girdle into a boat. Prisoner held the revolver in his hand, and the two other men came forward, picked up the money, and proceeded to divide it. While they were thus engaged Loa Fan, a friend of the prosecutor's brother, came upon the scene and seemed to have remonstrated with the prisoner and his accomplices, and as the result of that remonstrance \$17 was returned to the prosecutor. The prisoner was subsequently taken into custody. He believed the prosecutor had been charged with stealing these \$40 from the master of a junk, but it was quite obvious that, whether the prosecutor had a clear right to this \$40 or not, the prisoner had no right to assault him or take the money from him.

The evidence for the prosecution having been given,

Tam Ti said the prosecutor had been his foki for two months and that he had stolen the \$40 from him.

On the prosecutor being called up by his Lordship, however, he denied ever having been in the employ of this witness, whom he had seen at Pinghoi. He challenged him to produce his wages book.

Witness produced his wages book showing payments made to the prosecutor.

The prosecutor said that this book did not belong to the witness but to another man, Chung Tong. He asked the witness to read the entries in the book.

Witness said he could not read.

The Prosecutor—That shows the book does not belong to you.

The witness said Chung Tong was his partner at the time.

Chung Tong was called and sworn. He said Tam Yin, the prosecutor, used to be employed by the last witness as a foki. The prosecutor was a foki and it was not right for him to steal his master's money.

His Lordship warned the prosecutor of the consequences of not telling the truth, but he persisted in saying that at one time Chung Tong was his partner and that he was never in the other man's employ.

Chung Tong said the book produced belonged to Lam Li's junk.

Addressing the Jury, his Lordship said the only witness for the prosecution was Lam Yin. That man had been convicted by the Magistrate of having stolen the very money which he alleged the prisoner stole from him. Of course people must not rob a thief, but the thing was this, had they any reasonable doubt about the guilt of the prisoner, and were they prepared to find him guilty on the unsupported evidence of Tam Yin. Under the circumstances he did not think it would be safe to do so.

The jury found the prisoner not guilty.

His Lordship believed Tam Yin had been telling lies, and he sentenced him to three months' hard labour.

The writer of "Local Topics" in the *Shanghai Mercury* thus refers to the inspection of the Shanghai Volunteers fixed for last Tuesday. —I presume the turnout of the Volunteers will be the largest ever seen. There is to be a winter inspection at the new Drill Hall, the first military function within its walls, and the prizes won at the last Rifle Meeting are to be presented by Mrs. F. Anderson, wife of our esteemed Chairman of Council. If the new Volunteer Club, when once it has got into full swing, does not add immensely to the popularity of the corps nothing—except active service—ever will. But there is, so I hear, every possible chance of the entire success of the new institution. An admirable gymnasium is already in working order, and arrangements for other amusements as well as more solid military duties are being perfected. So far as mere housing is concerned, there will be no club in the East which can possibly compare with the Shanghai Volunteer Club. Its magnificent entrance, its spacious hall, the well appointed reading room, the up-to-date gymnasium, the weekly band performance, all these make up a series of attractions practically unique in this quarter of the globe. The Shanghai Volunteer is a lucky man. There is little fear but that he will show himself worthy of his good fortune.

THE RECENT FIRE AT WEST-POINT.

THE ADJOURNED ENQUIRY.

The adjourned enquiry into the recent fire at West Point took place before Mr. Gompertz at the Magistracy on Tuesday afternoon, 16th inst. Representatives from the different insurance companies interested again attended. The Captain Superintendent of Police (the Hon. F. H. May) conducted the enquiry.

Hong Yu Hung, master of the Wo Ki fire-crackers shop, said his firm had 497 packages of crackers stored in the Chop Yik Godown at the time of the fire. His firm had about 260 boxes of crackers in No. 256, Praya West, and they were all destroyed at a previous fire. Those goods were not insured. His firm sold crackers like those produced.

To Sze, master of the Man Wo Leung crackers shop, said that at the time of the fire he had 27 boxes of crackers stored in the Chop Yik Godown. The crackers produced were specimens of the crackers in which his firm dealt.

P. C. (31) Ritchie, a member of the Fire Brigade stationed at West Point, said he was one of the first two firemen who arrived at the recent fire at the Chop Yik Godown. He seized a hose from the despatch box and went up the lane with it until he got to the third staircase. He commenced to play on the fire, which was principally on the upper floor of No. 4 Godown, P. C. (54) Smith was with him playing on the fire through another window. While they were thus engaged there was an explosion as though some crackers were being let off and then there was a larger explosion which drove out the door alongside of him, and he was knocked down by falling bricks. He also noticed large sheets of flame at the same time.

P. C. (54) Smith gave similar evidence. He added that when the second explosion took place—which was about five minutes after the first—burning material was thrown some 50 or 60 feet into the air. After the second explosion he saw a great many bricks on the roofs of the adjoining godowns. The first explosion took place between Nos. 3 and 4 Godowns and the second between Nos. 2 and 3. When the first explosion occurred he did not notice that any other godown besides No. 4 had caught fire.

Assistant-Engineer Robertson said that when P. C. Ritchie was injured he was coming down the stairs with P. C. Smith, on which Ritchie was standing. Ritchie was injured by some falling bricks caused by the first explosion. Sheets of flame came out of the window, enveloping Ritchie, part of the roof was blown off and the walls were partly shattered. He was at the entrance to the lane when the second explosion took place. The second explosion was worse than the first, as everything was sent flying, and the fire spread from No. 4 Godown to the godowns on the other side of the lane. He should say that the first explosion took place on the first floor of No. 4 Godown. He could not say where the second took place. In his opinion as a fireman had it not been for the explosions the fire would have been extinguished in half-an-hour.

P. C. (57) Mackay, another fireman, said that on making a search on the site of the Chop Yik Godown after the fire he found the box of cartridges produced in No. 2 Godown the right hand side entering from the lane. The box was lying on the top of cow hides, and on the top of the box were about two feet of rubbish which had fallen from above. He found other cartridges at other dates in the same godown. They were all lying together in the same place. The cartridges in the box had not been discharged. He searched the other godowns besides No. 2 and found a number of exploded cartridges in No. 3 Godown.

P. C. (19) Brown also deposed to finding exploded and unexploded cartridges in No. 2 Godown. He also found the lumps of lead produced in the same place.

Captain Langhorn, an officer of the Ordnance Department, said he had made experiments with crackers similar to those produced. If 500 or 600 boxes of the crackers exploded they would do a considerable amount of damage, and would spread the fire by scattering debris. Otherwise he should say the effects of the explosion would be purely local. As the result of his experiments he should

say that precautions should be taken in the storing of crackers.

Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, said he had experiment with saltpetre and sulphur with a view to seeing whether they exploded when heated together. He found that when heated together above the melting point of heat an explosion resulted. He had visited the site of the Chop Yik Godown since the fire. He examined No. 4 Godown and found there some melted saltpetre. He took a sample of ordinary saltpetre which he found in the godown. He also went into No. 6 Godown where he found that a large quantity of saltpetre had been liquified by the heat, there being a layer one foot thick. It would not require a great heat to fuse this sulphur and saltpetre. He did not consider it safe to store sulphur with saltpetre. In fact, if this sulphur had not been in the godown there would have been no explosion.

Captain Superintendent May said that this was all the evidence he could usefully bring before the court.

His Worship—I think you have a charge entered against several persons for storing explosives.

The Captain Superintendent—Yes.

His Worship—If you had not done so I should have issued a warrant.

The enquiry was then closed, his Worship remarking, as he ordered the premises to be released, that he did not know that any expression of opinion from the court was required or was desirable.

The Captain Superintendent—The storage of these crackers will receive my attention, and I hope that soon there will be a law passed by which this foolish proceeding of storing crackers without any precautions will be put a stop to.

His Worship—I think it will be well if I send a copy of the depositions to the Government.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon, 18th inst. the usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Hartigan, Major Brown, Mr. J. McKie, Mr. Chan A. Fuk, Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, and Mr. C. W. Duggan (Secretary).

THE SANITARY SURVEYOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

The report of the Sanitary Surveyor (Mr. R. F. Drury) for the third quarter of 1899, said that plans were deposited during the quarter for the re-draining of 57 houses, plans for 318 houses were carried forward from 1898, and 131 from the previous quarter, making a total of 506 in hand during the quarter. The re-drainage of 111 houses was completed, leaving 395 to carry forward. Repairs to drainage arrangements were carried out in 91 instances and 282 houses were carried forward. This made a total of 373 houses in hand for repairs during the quarter. Certificates were granted for 87 new buildings. The drains of 649 houses were inspected and reported on; of this number one required re-constructing, 168 amending, 480 were found to be in good order. Notices were served on the owners of 169 houses, calling upon them to execute the necessary work. The number of drains found defective were small compared with the houses inspected, but in connection with these inspection there were 247 complaints of dirty over-crowded houses and illegal structures forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health to be dealt with by him. A great many houses were found to need sub-soil drainage and were drained accordingly.

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—"The remark respecting sub-soil drainage is most important. I believe this defect to be very common, particularly in the Western District."

THE LATRINE QUESTION.

Major BROWN, pursuant to notice, moved—"That the latrine in Elgin Road, Kowloon, be removed." He said it would almost seem as if the sites for latrines had been selected on the principle of making them the greatest possible

nuisance to the greatest possible number of people, and this latrine in particular was a striking example. The Kowloon residents had for a long time complained bitterly about it. He was not proposing to abolish it, but he wished to remove it to another site where it would cause the least possible unpleasantness to the smallest number of people.

Dr. HARTIGAN seconded.

Mr. OSBORNE said the latrine was the property of the Wharf Company and the Sanitary Board had no power, he understood, to order its removal; as a matter of fact arrangements were made long ago to remove it in deference to the wishes of the Kowloon residents to a side where it would not be so obnoxious as at present. A coolie was paid to do nothing else but to keep the latrine clean, and large quantities of disinfecting material were used.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY saw no objection to a latrine being in a public place and he did not see why it should be offensive, but as Mr. Osborne had informed them that it was intended to remove it he had nothing further to say.

Major BROWN asked when the latrine would be removed.

Mr. OSBORNE—Within the next three months.

Dr. CLARKE said the only way the Board could deal with a latrine belonging to a private person was to summon him for committing a nuisance.

On the motion being put it was lost.

Major BROWN then proposed the second motion of which he had given notice, viz:—"That the mat-shed latrine between Knutsford Terrace and Ormsby Terrace be removed." He said there had been continual complaints from the residents of the locality.

Mr. MCKIE seconded.

Dr. HARTIGAN said that this was simply a mat-shed put up for the coolies working there. The same complaint had been made over and over again in regard to other buildings.

Dr. CLARK said the remedy was for the Board to prosecute the contractor.

The PRESIDENT said that after the observation of the Medical Officer of Health he should say that the best course would be for the Inspector to receive instructions to visit this latrine daily and report to the Board if he found it in a filthy condition.

Mr. OSBORNE proposed as an amendment that the contractor be made to build a small bamboo wharf leading beyond low water mark and put this latrine with receptacles at the end of this bamboo pier.

Dr. HARTIGAN seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. MCKIE proposed:—"That the public urinal situated on the western boundary of the Hongkong Cricket Club ground, which at present is an antiquated, insanitary and obnoxious nuisance, be removed entirely." He said that there was a generally expressed feeling that this place should be removed, and added that it was a great nuisance to those who had to use the sidewalks when going to the tram station and to those who frequented the cricket ground.

Major BROWN seconded.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY strongly opposed the removal of the structure and asked what on earth the coolies were to do if it was removed.

Dr. HARTIGAN agreed with Mr. McKie that the place was a nuisance.

After some discussion Mr. McKie consented to alter his motion so as to end "be removed to a spot more westward to the north of the City Hall" and this was carried.

THE PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE CENTRAL MARKET.

In regard to the proposal to extend the Central Market on to the ground to be reclaimed in front of it, the following report from the Director of Public Works was forwarded to the Government:—

"The land in front of the Central Market will not be reclaimed and fit to build on until towards the end of 1901. I think an extension of the market will then be necessary, and this will be a very suitable site for a fish and poultry market. It will, I think, be sufficient to inform the Sanitary Board that the matter will be considered when the time comes and the land reserved in the meantime."

MISCELLANEOUS.

An application for permission to erect a structure at the end of Wo On Lane had been received.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. McKie, the application was refused.

An application for extension of time to remove certain cattle sheds from Kennedy street had been received.

On the motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, three months' extension was granted, the Hon. R. D. Ormsby saying that a substantial cowshed was being erected.

An application for permission to erect two waterclosets on the ground floor of Victoria Buildings had been received.

Mr. Osborne proposed that one water closet be granted.

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby seconded.

Mr. Chan A Fuk opposed the motion if fresh water was to be used. He had no objection if salt water was used.

Dr. Clark also opposed the motion on the ground that this building did not come within the category of those buildings to which some time ago the Board limited waterclosets.

The motion was lost three voting for and four against.

THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF RINDERPEST AT POKFULAM.

Mr. C. V. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) reported on the 15th inst. that the premises at Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulam, the property of the Dairy Farm Company, which were declared by the Board as infected with rinderpest on December 7th, might be declared free from disease.

The PRESIDENT said that this shed had been burned down, unfortunately, through an accident when the place was being disinfected.

Dr. HARTIGAN—Can you inform the Board how many cattle were burned.

The PRESIDENT—Eighteen cattle were killed out of 22.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT ANALYST.

Mr. F. Browne (Government Analyst), in his report for the quarter ended Dec. 31st, said he had examined two samples of whisky, three of brandy, and found all genuine.

Answering Dr. Hartigan, Dr. Clark said the samples were collected by the police.

Dr. HARTIGAN thought this was a perfect farce. The samples should be collected by persons unknown.

The PRESIDENT—I am informed that the Inspector goes in private clothes.

Dr. HARTIGAN—But he is known all the same.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death rate for the colony for the week ended 30th December was 24.1 against 20.1 for the previous week and 13.8 for the corresponding week last year.

During the week ended Dec. 24 there were 41 deaths in Macao and 46 during the following week.

PREPARING FOR THE PLAGUE.

Mr. Osborne proposed that special efforts be made by the Board to prosecute the owners of 579 tenements not cleansed during the last quarter of last year. The mortality returns showed, unfortunately, the thin end of the wedge of a visitation of plague, and, judging from the experience of previous years, they were going to have another outbreak and they expect it to commence very shortly. Therefore, as guardians of the public health, they ought to bear in mind the warnings given to them by Dr. Manson and other authorities and take time by the forelock and do all they could to prevent an outbreak this year. They ought to prosecute these offenders vigorously. Goodness knew they had reminded them enough during the past year. Another point in connection with the threatened outbreak of plague was the influx of visitors to the colony during China New Year and during the Races. Hitherto it had been noticed that plague had broken out particularly after the Races, and it had been supposed that there was some connection between this influx of dirty people from Canton and the first outbreak of plague. He was not prepared at the moment to say what they could do, but he would ask every member of the Board to think the matter over between

then and the next meeting and see whether they could not devise some means to mitigate this horrible scourge.

Mr. McKie said that at the previous meeting power was given to prosecute offenders as regarded lime-washing. He should like to know whether the proposed actions had been carried out in the interval.

Dr. Clark said that owing to difficulties pointed out by him at the previous meeting of the Board it was necessary, although these people had had two months in which to do it. Ten days' notice had been served during the past fortnight on the offenders and that ten days was barely up. During the past fortnight only seven out of 106 tenements had been lime-washed. There were still some 600 houses in the Western District not lime-washed.

Dr. HARTIGAN asked of there had been any reply to the communication sent by the Board to the Government at the previous meeting as to the necessity of the Board being able to proceed more expeditiously in regard to these prosecutions.

The SECRETARY said no.

Dr. HARTIGAN thought the Government should be approached again in the matter. This delay was a serious matter. The first outbreak occurred early in March, and it was believed that it was introduced by the influx of people from Canton at the time of the Races. He understood that there was plague in Canton now.

The PRESIDENT—There has been no official intimation to that effect.

Dr. HARTIGAN said there was good reason to believe it was there, and they should take every precaution.

The PRESIDENT said that the papers on the matter were being circulated among the members of the Executive Council, and they would hear from the Government as soon as possible. He thought one of the main things to do to stop overcrowding at the Races was to place some restriction on gambling.

Mr. McKie said he believed that that was being done.

Dr. HARTIGAN proposed that they should ask the Government to give them some means to get the house inspected with all possible speed. They were now in a very critical position, and they should make every effort to have things straight before the epidemic commenced, as it certainly would.

Dr. BROWN seconded and the motion was carried.

This was all the business.

WEST RIVER NOTES.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

It is surprising, Mr. Editor, how little seems to be known of the West River in Hongkong. Even its whereabouts in the minds of most people are veiled in doubt. Some believe it starts at Canton; others opine that you must first go to Macao and there make further enquiries! A recent would-be visitor gathered from authoritative sources that he couldn't get there at all, and naturally presumed that the foreign residents on the river must, like Topsy, have "grown" there!

I hope no one will accuse me of exaggeration when I say that one or more steamers leave the colony daily for West River ports. These same ports, moreover, are the victims of woeful misrepresentation, more especially in well informed postal circles. We have vainly protested that Wuchow and Wenchow are different places and that Shamshui is not a port of Formosa. A gentleman "doing time" in the latter place ordered last spring, in a moment of horticultural enthusiasm, a parcel of seeds in Hongkong wherewith to adorn his garden. You may think I am going to say that he never got those seeds—he did, but they arrived at the latter end of June, having journeyed round the island of Formosa and bearing on a battered and weather-beaten label indignant remarks such as "Not Known," "Try Tainan," &c., &c.

I relate the following incident more in sorrow than in anger:—

A well known West River resident, desiring to receive his home papers direct instead of circuitously, caused the wrappers to have printed on them in large black letters his name in full,

address, and then "West River," South China." Imagine his state of mind when the first consignment arrived some some weeks late, with a printed inscription, "Missent to Shanghai!"

I leave this painful subject with the intimation (which may be of use to those persons whose duty it is to announce the winning numbers in the Macao and other lotteries) that up the West River ports (including Nanning, where the open door is temporarily ajar) are connected by telegraph, and that it is quite unnecessary to charter a special steamer to convey news of importance to us, an arrangement that was actually contemplated during the recent visit of an exalted personage to these benighted regions.

Talking about steamers reminds me that the West River possesses among its other attractions as peculiar and variegated an assortment of vehicles propelled by steam as you can find the wide world over. Some of the craft which ply upon these waters would bring tears to the eyes of a Clyde shipbuilder. Launches with box-like structures piled on top of them till only a foot of funnel peeps out to the sky; gigantic oblong bird-cages with a paddle-wheel churning up the water behind and a boiler reposing in the middle of the first-class saloon; a man-of-war making four knots an hour under favourable conditions and one and a half against the current, with a tendency to turn round and steam sideways unless carefully watched—all these are doubtless objects of legitimate interest to the tourist. But our *pièce de résistance*, our "Tumbo," is a Chinese junk fitted up with a bowsprit, a boiler and engines in the hold, surmounted by an elegant funnel and superior passenger accommodation aft! As she carries more cargo than vessels twice her size her owner can afford to treat this description with contempt.

Really exciting topics of conversation are naturally few and far between up here, except when the pirates favour us with an entertainment. One great standby we have, however, in the rules which govern steam navigation on these waters. They are a most fascinating study because it is, humanly speaking, impossible to thoroughly grasp their meaning. For instance, the uninitiated might suppose that the West River, being open, steamers can go where they like, including going on shore.

So they can, but they must be careful to start from the proper place. Imagine you are on a trip from Canton to Wuchow, and on the way up you desire to stop at Dosing and visit a missionary friend (there aren't any missionaries there yet, but we can suppose one for the sake of argument). "Sorry," says the captain, "can't stop there, I'm an inter-treaty port boat; you can go to Wuchow and take a steamer from there." If you are sensible you will give up the idea of visiting Dosing and your friend.

But, again, supposing you do take a steam launch and run down. Having concluded your visit you say, "Now let us return to Canton." "Sorry," says the captain, "mustn't; I'm in an inland water boat. Take you back to Wuchow and change!" Compared to this, travelling on the "South Western" on a bank holiday with specials running is child's play.

Friends have parted on this subject and domestic bliss has been shattered. West River dinner parties (yes, we do have such things) usually resolve themselves into animated debating societies. Jones says, "My dear fellow, I happen to know that you are quite wrong."

Brown, while admitting that Jones takes a sensible view of most things, cannot understand his strange infatuation on this obvious point. Robinson is firmly convinced that neither Jones nor Brown have yet grasped the rudimentary principles of the subject. And so they are left talking till the "wee sma' hours" and next morning the boy is busy classifying "empties."

The wife of the gentleman who applied for a divorce because she had "jawed constant" for twenty years could find a fruitful field for her eloquence in consideration of our regulations.

I should properly conclude these remarks with a few original observations on the state of the weather after the manner of the reverend gentleman whose contributions from the various health resorts in Shantung, Shansi and other unpronounceable places in the interior of China adorn the pages of your northern contemporary. After careful enquiries I have been unable to

discover that our weather differs in any material particular from your own. We have had it very cold, we have also had it warm. Some days it has rained: on the other hand it has been fine; the crops are doing nicely (thank you), the Chinese say—but then, if I were to write down what the Chinese say you would have to crowd out all your advertisements and tack on an extra supplement—so I will keep what the Chinese say to myself!

THE SIMPLE-MINDED PIRATE.

(With apologies to the People's Laureate.)

Translator's Note—The original poem, of which the following is a translation, was found in a packet left on board a West River steamer by some person unknown, who had doubtless, for obvious reasons, been obliged to disembark in haste. The packet also contained, among other things, an arms certificate issued by the Customs, a copy of the Viceroy's latest proclamation suppressing piracy, and two pawn tickets for three white duck suits and a parcel of linen marked "foreigner's washing." On being done into English, the verses were found to bear so close a resemblance to a famous poem that the translator felt bound to make the acknowledgement recorded above.

When you've laid down your revolvers, when
you've kindly shut off steam,
When you've finished dodging round behind
those bales,
Will you please to drop your dollars in my
little soup tureen,
And recollect you mustn't tell no tales!
I'm a simple-minded beggar, but my needs are
very great,
And the New Year's bills are all a falling in.
I am sorry to disturb you, but its getting
rather late,
So you'd better hurry up and find your "tin."

Cook's son, cooly's son, son of a mandarin,
Twenty thousand Chinese braves idling their
time away.
We've brothers and friends among them, so
they don't care a pin;
Pass up the swag for your good health's sake
and, pay, pay, pay!

There are gunboats in Canton; you can see
'em there to-day
Drawing coal and vittles reg'lar from the store;
They are chasing of us pirates, least so their
captains say,
And cutting off our noddles by the score.
They are simple-minded beggars; they very much
prefer
To eat their rice and smoke their pipes at
home,
And leave us (that's you and me) to settle our
affairs
In a sociable, friendly way alone.

Shroff's son, "boy's" son, son of a mandarin;
Straits or Melican millionaires—we're all the
same to day,
Each of us earning our daily bread (and take off
that diamond ring!)
Down on your knees; shell out your gold and
pay, pay, pay!

You needn't trouble, thank you, to remind us
that the Tweed
Is hanging round in wait for such as us;
We shall likely meet her soon, but she hasn't
got the speed
To overtake a private railway 'us.*
We are simple-minded beggars, but we thought
it rather low
When they sent their "Puffing Jimmy" up the
creek.
So we rallied round the 'boys' and I think,
we let 'em know,
Another time to look before they leap!

Cook's son, amah's son, son of a compradore—
(Fifteen men on a pirate launch running for
Ghu tou-shan),
Launches and steamers chasing us (and one of
'em got on shore),
Clap on steam till your boilers bust, and catch
us if you can!

* Literally "wheelbarrow."

H.E. LI HUNG CHANG IN HONGKONG.

HE CALLS ON H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

H.E. Li Hung Chang, who is on his way to Canton to take up the appointment of Viceroy of the Two Kwang, arrived from the north in the M.M. steamer *Ernest Simons* on Sunday, 14th inst., bringing with him Lord Li and a numerous retinue. It was anticipated that His Excellency would call on the Governor the same day, and every preparation had been made for his reception. He, however, did not put in an appearance until the following afternoon. His arrival was awaited by a guard of honour composed of 100 members of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, together with the Regimental Band, colours, and goat. The route to Government House was lined by 500 Welsh Fusiliers and about 50 Indian policemen. Colonel R. H. Bertie was in charge of the troops and the Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police) was in charge of the police.

His Excellency landed at Murray Wharf at about 2 o'clock and was greeted by a royal salute by the troops and band, a salute being fired at the same time from the Naval Yard. His Excellency, who appeared to be in good health, wore his gorgeous yellow jacket, but little could be seen of him, as he got into a closed chair at the top of the wharf steps and was in this way conveyed to Government House. Hundreds of Chinamen were assembled on the Cricket Ground and different points.

Chinese traffic was suspended in Queen's Road for about an hour and a half, with the result that there was quite a block, and when at last Captain Superintendent May gave orders for the traffic to be allowed to resume quite a flood began to flow east and west.

On his arrival at Government House His Excellency was met by the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.), H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., and the members of the Executive Council, all of whom were introduced to him.

The party then sat down to luncheon, and during the course of the conversation which ensued Dr. Tong acted as interpreter to Li Hung Chang, and Mr. Pitzipios (British Vice-Consul at Canton) interpreted for the Governor.

Alluding to piracy on the West River, His Excellency said he fully realised the gravity of the state of affairs, and said he was entirely in accord with the British in their determination to put a stop to piracy.

After talking to the party, at the desire of the distinguished visitor, were photographed. Subsequently His Excellency paid a call at Headquarters House, the residence of H.E. Major-General Gascoigne.

His Excellency resumed his voyage to Canton on the 15th inst.

MR. W. V. DRUMMOND ON "NATIONAL TROUBLE."

On the evening of the 15th inst., Mr. W. V. Drummond delivered a lecture in the City Hall under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd-Volumes Society on "National Trouble." There was a good attendance.

After a few introductory remarks from the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD,

Mr. DRUMMOND said the subject of "National Trouble" might be treated from a great many different standpoints. It was, therefore, not difficult to speak on the subject, but difficult to choose rather what to say or what not to say. He had selected three different suggestions bearing more or less on the subject of "National Trouble," and he intended to bring these before them and say a few words in regard to each of them. Mr. Drummond proceeded to deal with these points. The first he put in the form of a general question, "What is the greatest difficulty, trouble and want which the world has known in all past ages and knows to-day and suffers from to-day?" He answered this by saying that it was the want of good government. His second point was that there seemed to be a law operating in this world which had an immense deal to do with the peace and happiness of nations as well as of individuals, and that law was that the nation which did not utilise

its talents and develop its resources to the best of its abilities either was destroyed from the face of the earth or lost its independence. In dealing with his third point, Mr. Drummond touched upon British national trouble. Referring to the Mutiny, he said he could remember as though it was but yesterday the breaking out of the Mutiny in May, 1857. That was the beginning of a terrible and disastrous chapter of British history. What he wanted to convey to them was this, that that was a preventible business; it was not inevitable. History had told them in unmistakeable terms that persons who were not connected with the Government, outsiders who knew India well and the state of the country, gave the Government warning over and over again before the Mutiny broke out as to what was going to happen. They knew their facts well, and their information was at the command of the Government, but the Government refused to listen to it, scouting the information. The result was that when the Mutiny broke out it fell like a bolt from the blue. The British Empire was strained to its foundations to overcome that terrible time. And what was it then and what was it now in South Africa which saved the British nation from absolutely going under and breaking down? They knew as well as he did. It was the gallantry of our officers and of our soldiers and sailors. (Applause.) But why should an enormous number of precious lives be lost and thousands of families be thrown into mourning in order that the nation might be saved from the blunders the Government had brought upon it? The trouble we were now going through in South Africa was one which was also preventible; it was not inevitable in any way whatever. An ounce of fact was worth many a pound of theory, and he would therefore read to them a letter which would show that this trouble was anticipated years before. In the *London Times* of the 21st November last appeared a letter from Dr. Norman Macleod enclosing a letter which was written to him nearly four years ago by an Englishman born in the Transvaal, "a resident farmer and burgher, speaking Dutch and differing from the Boers around him only in being of English parentage, whose acquaintance I made when residing in the Transvaal in 1872-80, during the Zulu War." The letter, which was signed "A. B." was as follows:—

"Dear Sir,—I write this letter to let you know the real state of matters in the Transvaal, but at the same time don't mention my name, as the Boers are very much down on all us English people in the Transvaal, and, of course, after Jameson's raid we are all looked upon with suspicion by the ordinary class of Boers. The Boers are playing a big game. Of course we know, being in the country. They have armed every man from 14 years old to 60 with Martini, and 50 rounds, with orders to sleep on our cartridges. They gave my brother and myself the same instructions. I told our Feldt Cornet I would rather be shot before I would go and shoot my own countrymen. Consequently I am in bad books, so came out here to see the end of it, and left all my property."

"If there is war, it will require about four columns of troops of not less than 20,000 in each column, as all the Free State, Natal, and old Colony Boers are going to join them for certain fact, and lots of young British also, who have everything in the country, and are a bit afraid that the Imperial Government will only half do it with small lots of troops and have more reverses. They must remember the Boers can move about quick without commissariat, living on beef and water, and they will all make a raid on one column at a time, so each column should be strong enough to stand any determined rush they may make. In Pretoria they have about 100 big guns, and about 150 to 200 men well trained to the cannon; and they have lately, I hear, got out German officers, so you see the situation is serious, and if the Boers do get the best of any column they will wipe them out this time and take all guns, etc., as loot. I heard it whispered in the Transvaal before I left that they were going to disarm the Swazis, as they are friends of the English, and would help in case of a war; but you know the Swazis will see who gets the best of it before they take any side, though I must say they'll swear by our Queen. The Boer game is to get Natal and the old colony back, and make one big Dutch Re-

public, and they say old Paul Kruger will be the first President. British residents about the border, such as Newcastle, Dundee, etc., are very uneasy how matters will turn out; but, believe me, if it comes to a war England will have to fight desperately to hold any possession in South Africa. There are such a lot of Germans with the Boers. I believe they will be able, with Natal, old colony, and Transvaal, to put about 75,000 really good all round men, their average being equal to our best volunteers for shooting and riding, besides being up to the country, and I must say I think it will take two or three to one of our ordinary men to beat them. Our columns should be very strong in artillery, and keep scouts out at least five or six miles, so as not to be caught in dongas, kopjes, or drifts, as the Boers always shoot artillery animals in bad places to cause a block. I think it will require 80 to 100 thousand regulars to do the thing really properly, and there are lots of young English and Boers who, when they have no chance with the Boers, will join the English side; but if there is any fear they will go with the Boers for a certainty. I hope you won't feel annoyed at me writing you all this, and that you will positively keep my name silent, as it will be the cause of me being shot or murdered by some you know. You must remember Free State has good artillery also."

Dr. McLeod remarked:—"It is remarkable that an English farmer in the Transvaal writing nearly four years ago should have been able to make such an accurate forecast of events; and it is more remarkable still that facts so well known nearly four years ago to the writer of this letter have only been learnt by our Government by the experience of the present campaign." Continuing, Mr. Drummond said the cause of our national trouble in India was ministerial ignorance; a determination not to believe information brought to the knowledge of the Government unless it came in a blue envelope marked "H. M. S." and with a piece of red tape round it. That was the kind of thing which was going on all over the world and that was the great cause of our trouble. The British nation to-day was not governed by Kings or Queens or by Governors or by Parliament. It was governed by private secretaries and permanent officials and nobody else. (Hear hear) These were the men who governed the British empire to-day beyond the shadow of a shade of doubt, and they were not in the public eye and did not bear the responsibility they ought to bear considering the enormous power they had in regard to the government of the empire. At the present moment they must be prepared to a man to back up the government until this South African business was through—(applause)—at the same time when the business was through they should have a parliamentary enquiry, probably in the shape of a Royal Commission at home, for which should be selected men above party considerations and perfectly independent, and among the questions which that Commission should enquire into was this, "What steps did the British Government take to gain information as to the state of South Africa, a country in which we have such vast interests?" Turning to China, Mr. Drummond said they wanted a man like Lord Cromer for this part of the world. The key to Lord Cromer's character and the key to his success in Egypt was given by Lord Salisbury in a speech delivered by him at the Guild hall when he described Lord Cromer as a man who always had an ultimatum up his sleeve. In conclusion, Mr. Drummond referred to the China Association, which he said was to a great extent becoming a mutual admiration society.

On behalf of the audience, the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD thanked Mr. Drummond for his instructive and interesting lecture.

Of the twelve torpedo boat destroyers ordered by the Japanese Government from England six have already arrived in Japan and another three, the *Akebono*, *Kagiro* and *Sazanami*, are on their way home. Of the remainder, the *Oboro* was lately handed over to the Japanese Commission, the *Niji* has been launched, and the last, the *Usugumo*, is now being built. All the boats are the in Japan before the end of the current year.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED.

At noon on Saturday, 13th inst., the third ordinary annual meeting of the China Provident Loan and Mortgage Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., Praya Central). Mr. R. Shewan occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. J. S. van Buren, Chow Hing Ki, Chow Tung Shang (Consulting Committee), C. Ewens, A. G. Morris, F. J. V. Jorge, E. S. Kelly, H. W. Dann, T. H. Reid, A. Babington, A. Ramjahn, F. M. Gutierrez, Fung Wa Chuen, and Cheung King Ting.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, as you are already familiar with the report and accounts we will take them as read. The accounts are so very simple that there is nothing in them that requires explanation except, perhaps, the small item of furniture, which has risen from \$91 last year to \$1,000 this year. It represents merely a new safe, which cost \$1,100, and the necessity for which in a business like ours is obvious. We have gone carefully over all our loans on mortgages and are quite satisfied with them all. The general rise in value of real estate which has taken place during the year has, of course, strengthened our position, but over and above that do not forget that the margin on them increases with every monthly payment. As regards the result of the year's working, I am sure you will all agree with me that we should be well content with it, especially considering how we have been hampered for want of sufficient funds. This question of obtaining further funds has now become a very urgent one, for, as you see, practically the whole of our capital of \$500,000 is now placed in provident loans, leaving nothing available for ordinary advance on goods, etc., for which there is always a heavy demand on us. This is a good and remunerative part of our business, but we cannot retain our hold of it if we have to say "No" every time to our customers, as we are doing at present. As you all know, there are often times when heavy rates of interest will be paid in this money market for short loans on first-class securities, and a large business is always to be done in advances on merchandise in godowns. There is, however, one objection to the latter, namely, the absolute reliability of the godown warrant, and unless the goods and godown are under our full control we are very wary of making advances. So far we have worked this branch by making use of the general managers' godowns, but it is evident that the volume of business to be done in this way is more than enough to fill large godowns of our own, and, of course, by owning instead of renting war-houses, we should make the profit on the charges for ourselves, and, moreover, there is nothing to prevent our acting as simple warehousemen, godown accommodation being still far from ample in this colony. That this alone should pay us handsomely we are satisfied from our own knowledge and experience of the demand for storage room, and it is confirmed by the success which has attended the Chinese godown companies which were started not very long ago. Of course, the demand for loans on house property is by no means filled, but I want to make it clear to you that outside of that there is a large field for our operations, and that we are only crippling our present business and throwing away good chances of more by not increasing our resources. It is plain that we cannot look for much at present from our issue of debentures, although they are certainly a form of investment which should be in favour with all investors who make security their chief desideratum, and we have, therefore, decided to make fresh issue of capital. We do not propose to call up the unpaid capital, but shall issue a further 50,000 shares of \$20 each, of which \$10 only will be called up, as before, in instalments of \$5 at a time. Some of this additional capital will be used for provident loans, but the bulk of it we will employ in obtaining land and building godowns and making advances on merchandise stored with us. Advances on shares come more within the province of banking, and will, therefore, not be pushed by us, but advances on goods is a business we believe that the banks here are not in favour of doing, and in that respect we count

upon filling a want. To effect this increase of capital the usual extraordinary meetings will be called, of which you will receive due notice. It has been suggested that the general managers, in view of the increased turnover, might, when the capital is enlarged as proposed, see their way to reduce their present commission, and to this they are quite ready to assent. The present commission of 8 per cent. cannot, I think, be considered very heavy, but to encourage this further issue of capital and to meet the views of shareholders the general managers will reduce their commission to 5 per cent. when the new capital is subscribed, which is certainly a very substantial concession indeed. Of course, the new shares will be offered to the present shareholders in proportion to their holdings, but I may say that the vendors of the land we have in view for a godown are anxious to take payment for a considerable proportion in shares instead of cash, so the new issue may be regarded as guaranteed already to a certain extent. If any of the shareholders have any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them before moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

No questions being asked, the report and accounts were adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. VAN BUREN.

On the motion of Mr. KELLY, seconded by Mr. GORGE, Messrs. Van Baren, Lewis, Chow Tung Shang, and Chow Hing Kee were elected consulting committee for the ensuing year.

On the motion of Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN, seconded by Mr. EWENS, Messrs. F. Henderson and W. H. Potts were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. The dividend warrants will not be ready till Wednesday. They will take some time to check.

WANCHAI WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Company, Limited, was held on the 15th inst. at the offices of the general managers (Messrs Meyer and Co.), No. 5, Queen's Road Central. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. G. Schröter, and there were also present Messrs. A. Shelton Hooper, F. Henderson, J. Orange, O. Vonder Heyde, G. H. Haygen, E. Kroll, C. Schröter and Kwok Sun.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—You received some days ago the report and accounts for the past year and with your permission I will take them as read in the usual way. I do not find any comment necessary to the accounts; they have been drawn up in the same way as before and they are very simple. The annual survey of our property has recently been held by our architects, Messrs. Palmer & Turner, and they declare all the buildings to be in a fair state of repairs internally, the same as when they were leased, but they found some external repairs necessary. Particulars of these have been handed to the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, who confirmed already in writing that they would attend to the matter. When we last met I mentioned the New Pier Ordinance, and you will have seen from the newspapers that it has become law from the beginning of this year on a basis of rents which show a reduction on those in the first draft of the bill. Our Company will now become liable to a yearly payment of probably \$480 for pier rent, but, as previously intimated, this outlay will be met by the Kowloon Godown Company during the whole period of their lease, and this obligation has already been acknowledged by them. According to the ordinance a lease for the pier will be issued by the Government for a term of fifty years, and I have instructed our solicitors to apply for the same. Nothing else of interest occurs to me, but I shall be glad to answer if you have any questions.

No questions being asked, the report and accounts were adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. J. ORANGE.

On the motion of Mr. C. VON DER HEYDE, seconded by Mr. HUYGEN, Mr. F. Henderson was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors for presentation to the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Offices, Victoria Buildings, at noon, on Wednesday, the 24th January, 1900.

The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1899.

The net profits for that period, including \$67,854.93 brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to \$577,952.94. From this amount an interim dividend of \$2.50 per share has already been paid, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$3.50 per share, making a total dividend of 12 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees there remains a balance of \$252,352.94, from which it is proposed to place \$250,000 to an equalization of dividend fund, and carry forward the balance of \$2,352.94 to credit of new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. N. A. Siebs and Lee Sing now retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

Mr. E. Shellim was appointed Director in place of Mr. D. Gubbay, resigned, and this now requires confirmation.

Mr. D. M. Moses has been appointed a Director in place of Mr. E. Shellim, who has resigned on retiring from the firm of Messrs. David Sassoon, Sons and Co., and this appointment also requires confirmation.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. J. C. Peter, who now retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

J. J. KESWICK.
Chairman.

Hongkong, 10th January, 1900.

BALANCE SHEET.		
LIABILITIES.		\$ c.
31st Dec., 1899.		
Paid-up capital	2,500,000.00	
Reserve fund	1,250,000.00	
Accounts payable	297,846.37	
Balance of profit and loss account	452,952.94	
	\$4,500,799.31	
31st Dec., 1899.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cash	52,722.86	
Amount advanced on mortgage	1,213,403.00	
Amount invested in property	3,206,388.23	
Furniture account	3,246.08	
Accounts receivable	25,039.14	
	\$4,500,799.31	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		
Dr.		\$ c.
30th June, 1899.		
To interim dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year	125,000.00	
31st Dec.		
To charges account	28,942.95	
To repairs to house property	16,431.82	
To advertising account	318.89	
To fire insurance account	6,871.73	
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—		
Directors' fees	\$ 5,000.00	
Managing directors' fees	20,000.00	
Auditors' fees	600.00	
Final dividend of 7 per cent. for the half-year	175,000.00	
Equalization of dividend fund	250,000.00	
Balance to be carried to new account	2,352.94	
	452,952.94	
	\$630,518.33	

Cr.		\$ c.
1st Jan., 1899.		
By undivided profits, 1898	67,854.93	
By interest on mortgages	\$103,690.81	
Less—Interest on loans payable	22,363.98	
	81,330.83	
By rent account	195,501.90	
By commission account	8,055.95	
By scrip fees	299.00	
By profit on sale of properties	276,711.72	
By unclaimed dividends forfeited	764.00	
	\$630,518.33	

RESERVE FUND.		\$ c.
31st Dec., 1899.		
To balance	1,250,000.00	
1st Jan., 1899.		
By balance	1,250,000.00	
	\$2,500,000.00	
	A. SHELTON HOOPER, Secretary.	

We have compared the above statements with the books, vouchers and securities of the Company and have found the same to be correct.

F. HENDERSON, } Auditors.
J. C. PETER, }

Hongkong, 10th January, 1900.

THE WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the Eleventh Report of the General Agents for presentation to the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Offices, Victoria Buildings, at 11.30 o'clock a.m. on Wednesday, the 24th January, 1900.

The General Agents now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1899.

The net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amount to \$24,647.23. From this amount an interim dividend of 75 cents per share has already been paid, and, after writing off directors' and auditors' fees, it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$1.15 per share, making a total dividend for the twelve months of \$1.90 per share, and to carry forward the balance of \$347.23 to credit to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and the Hon. J. J. Keswick retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mr. C. S. Sharp, having retired, the Hon. J. J. Keswick and Mr. A. G. Wood have been appointed in their stead, and these appointments now require confirmation.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. L. Farnham, who now retires, but offers himself for re-election.

A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary to the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited, General Agents for the West Point Building Co., Limited, Hongkong, 12th January, 1900.

BALANCE SHEET TO 31st DECEMBER, 1899.		
LIABILITIES.		\$ c.
31st Dec., 1899.		
Paid-up capital	6,500,000.00	
Accounts payable	1,030.45	
Balance of profit and loss account	15,272.23	
	\$641,302.68	
31st Dec., 1899.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cost of property	611,830.80	
Cash	742.88	
Accounts receivable	28,729.00	
	\$641,302.68	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		
Dr.		\$ c.
30th June, 1899.		
To interim dividend of 75 cents for half-year	9,375.00	
31st Dec., 1899.		
To fire insurance	2,002.75	
To charges	594.60	
To Crown rent and rates	4,608.79	
To legal expenses	317.40	
To repairs to building	1,876.20	
To interest	268.24	
To commission to agents	1,258.26	
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—		
Directors' fees	\$ 500.00	
Auditor's fee	50.00	
Dividend of \$1.15 per share	14,375.00	
Balance to be carried to new account	347.3	
	15,272.23	
	\$5,733.38	

Cr.		\$ c.
1st Jan., 1899.		
By balance brought forward	1,234.94	
By rents	34,221.44	
By scrip fees	117.00	
	\$35,573.38	

A telegram to the Manila Times, dated the 9th inst., states that Mr. E. Root, U. S. Secretary for War, has asked Congress to pass an emergency vote of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which is urgently needed to make up a deficiency in the fund for repatriating Spanish prisoners recently escaped from Aguinaldo's power. Congress agreed about a month ago to send them all home at the expense of the U. S., but no vote was taken then for those in Manila.

RACING NOTES.

Although customary, it is by no means needful, for a new contributor to give the why and wherefore of the presence of his efforts in the columns of the paper for which he writes. It is, consequently, only necessary to state that an accurate account of the work on the race course and short references to anything of importance to the local racing and sporting fraternity will appear in this column as often as the occasion demands.

The interest in the forthcoming race meeting is not so keen, up to the present time at least, as it has been in previous years, and, as a result, the attendance at the course in the early morning is meagre. The scarcity of ponies may have something to do with the apparent lack of enthusiasm; but the probabilities are that some of the regular patrons of the track are waiting until the griffins are more forward with their work before renewing their old acquaintance with it. That the usual amount of criticism will be bestowed on the game little competitors before they are asked to try definite conclusions goes without saying, and the arrival of the Shanghai contingent next week will doubtless create a new interest.

Nothing sensational in the way of time has yet been recorded. With two or three exceptions all the ponies are doing good work and the racing promises to be of an open character.

Visitors to the Causeway Bay Stables on Saturday morning were treated to an unrehearsed performance which proved particularly interesting to everybody but one of the leading performers. A suggestion was made that one of W. Kennedy's recent Australian importations should be backed; thereon hinged the unexpected entertainment. Full of confidence, justified by his experience with other waters he had ridden, one of the grooms boldly attempted the task. In less than five seconds he, Kennedy and the horse were engaged in active warfare, with the spectators in full retreat.

The horse displayed rare generalship; and brought the engagement to an abrupt termination by popping the boy through space with the velocity of a Mauser bullet. He then displayed an inclination to leave the scene of his success, and would probably have been going now had Kennedy not anticipated his retirement.

With the exception of Mr. Hart Buck's recent purchases, and four or five others from Amoy, all the horses engaged at the forthcoming meeting have arrived and are located at headquarters.

The gallops at the Course so far this week may be described as opening dress rehearsals. They are important, but not worth recording. Saturday will, in all probability, be spoken of hereafter as the opening day. The attendance of spectators and ponies increases each morning, and there are already at least six owners who, in anticipation, are leading back the Derby winner.

Hongkong riders were very much in evidence at Amoy. Mr. U. J. Gresson heads the list with six wins to his credit, Lieutenant F. J. Walwyn is second with three winning brackets, and Lieutenant R. B. Johnson comes third with two. Mr. J. A. Cox also succeeded in getting into first position on one occasion.

The Champion of the meeting is aptly named Pluto. For the moment he is probably considered quite as important by his equine companions as his illustrious namesake, who in the days of ancient Greece was supposed to reign over regions that few of us have any desire to reach. Three wins out of three starts, and one of them the Championship, is not a bad performance, and when he meets the best of the local cracks the race should be worth watching. Esperance and Desespoir, now on their way south, consigned to Mr. Hart Buck, were both successful at Amoy. Ridden in each case by Mr. A. T. Gresson, the former captured the

Consular and Challenge Cups, whilst the latter won the Hackson Cup and ran second in the Derby.

The pony Shannon, whose performances at Shanghai entitle him to be classed with the best in China, has been doing slow but useful work since his arrival. The bustling part of his training operations should, if appearances count for anything, trouble him but slightly. He is big and lusty, and if Pluto, who, by the way, is to have the capable assistance of Mr. Gresson, beats him, those who know him best will be greatly surprised.

Unless steps are taken to abate it, the dog nuisance at the Course promises to develop sensationally. If curs are permitted to pit their pace, as one did on Wednesday, against a couple of Derby candidates, nothing short of a miracle will prevent an accident. As a rule, it is the pace that kills, but in the case in question the want of it will put the dogs under horses racing behind those they are chasing. Mishaps of the kind are by no means rare and prevention is better than cure.

An amusing story, the accuracy of which I am not prepared to vouch for, is going the rounds of certain sporting circles. At a meeting held within the last century, a rider who had been very successful, and, strange though it may seem, he didn't hail from Hongkong, prepared himself for another tussle with the conquering brigade of visitors. Weight, colours and even the position of his mount had been adjusted, when, lo, the pony raised a slight objection. His head he shook and also his heels. The second proceeding had a salutary effect on his intended victim, who declined with thanks the invitation to ride him. A well known local amateur's services were at once secured, and to the mortification of the other the pony quietly joined his fellow competitors and ran a rattling good race.

TRIDENT.

AMOY RACES.

The following are the results:—
FIRST DAY.

CONSULAR CUP	Esperance
TRIAL STAKES	The Navajoe
RACING STAKES	Pluto
HAEKWAN CUP	Desespoir
E MUNG KANG PLATE	Dancer
I. M. CUSTOMS' CUP	Odd Trick
AMOY STAKES	Hope
CLUB CUP	Ace of Hearts

SECOND DAY.

STEWARDS' CUP	Trumpeter
AMOY DERBY	Beneficial
CHALLENGE CUP	Esperance
EXCHANGE PLATE	Hope
COMPRADORS' CUP	Debauch
KULANGSU STAKES	Pluto
CHAASZU CUP	Dervish
RACE COURSE PLATE	Sinbad

THIRD DAY.

LEDGER CUP	Thistle
FORMOSA CUP	Ace of Hearts
LADIES' PURSE	Hazlewood
LOTTERY CUP	Dervish
CONSOLATION CUP	The Drummer
NIL DESPERANDUM	Emir

CHAMPIONSHIP RACE.

Pluto	1
Sinbad	2
Hazlewood	3

The Shanghai A. D. C. performance of "Nerves," on the 13th inst, the proceeds being devoted to the Patriotic Fund, proved very successful.

The bandits of Formosa, regarding the New Year festivities as a good opportunity to make a raid, broke into the *Bemmusho* at Mata, and finding most of the inmates under the influence of *sake*, abstracted 3,400 yen from the safe. The Japanese rallied and turned upon the marauders, who numbered 80 or 90. Bent mainly upon plunder, the bandits sought rather to escape with their booty than to injure life or property. They succeeded in getting away with the money, but three of them were captured having been disabled by wounds. Two Japanese, also, were wounded.—*Japan Mail*.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG C. C., V. THE GARRISON.

The Hongkong C. C. met a team representing the Garrison on Saturday 13th inst., and defeated them by four runs. The following were the scores:—

THE CLUB.	
Lieut. Strong, R.M.L.I., b Preedy	3
E. C. Smith, R.N., c Thomson, b Vallings	36
K. W. Mounsey, b Preedy	0
F. W. Maitland (Captain), c Vallings, b Waymouth	23
H. R. Hancock, b Langhorne	0
Dr. J. A. Lawson, c Lewis, b Preedy	30
J. J. Lee, b Preedy	18
A. G. Ward, b Preedy	1
C. W. Hay, b Preedy	0
H. Arthur, not out	0
J. J. Wild, b Preedy	0
Extras	9

Total

THE GARRISON.	
Captain Langhorne, R.A., c Strong, b Lee ..	44
Lieut. Ball-Aston, R.W.F., run out	1
Captain Simonds, R.A., b Strong	11
Lieut. Hall, R.W.G., c Wild, b Hancock	11
Rev. G. R. Vallings, c Lawson, b Lee	9
Lieut. Isat, R.A., b Lee	4
Capt. Waymouth, R.A., c Arthur, b Hancock ..	5
Private Preedy, b Hancock	1
Lieut. Higgon, R.W.F., not out	8
Lieut. Thomson, R.A., c Mounsey, b Hancock ..	7
Lieut. Lewis, R.A., b Hancock	8
Extras	7

Total

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

THE CLUB.				
Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	
Vallings	12	1	43	1
Preedy	18.4	8	38	7
Waymouth	8	3	16	1
Langhorne	7	2	14	1

THE GARRISON.				
Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	
Lawson	18	10	31	—
Strong	10	3	27	1
Hancock	19.4	10	22	5
Lee	12	3	29	3

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG ENGINEERS F. C., V.

"BARFLEUR" F. C.

An Association football match was played at Causeway Bay on Saturday, 13th inst., between the above teams, and, though it had no connection with the Shield competition, proved to be very interesting, and provided good practice for both teams. The Barfleurs were decidedly weaker than usual and the Marine Engineers were not up to their usual strength, the services of a blue-jacket being secured for the goal, who proved to be a very safe substitute. The Engineers kicked off, and play was very erratic, the ball going up and down the field. The left wing of the Barfleurs settled down to a very nice game, Ross, the outside left, putting in some swinging shots from the wing, but the centre forward was too weak to receive or negotiate. The Engineers, who had been playing individually with a good deal of dash, were the first to score from a second penalty kick, the first kick, which passed outside the goal, being declared no kick on account of one of the Barfleurs fouling Ritchie before he touched the ball. The second attempt proved successful, the goal-keeper being rushed in handling the ball. Soon afterwards the Engineers again scored, the goal-keeper missing his kick and the ball dribbling into goal. The Barfleurs made several good attempts to score, but at half-time the score was two goals in favour of their opponents. In the second half play on both sides was somewhat better though very ragged, the left back of the Barfleurs playing, however, a very fine game. Ritchie, for the Engineers, was conspicuous, but was often out of place, and the outside wing men of the Engineers, the centre forward, and right-half put in a deal of good work. More combination on the part of both teams would have made the game more interesting. Before play was finished the inside left and inside right of the Barfleurs scored, while Blakes, for the Engineers, put in another goal for the Engineers. The Barfleurs tried hard to equalise, and might have done so had their

forwards been steadied, but the game ended in favour of the marine Engineers by three goals to two.

A match played on the 25th inst between the Hongkong Football Club and the Royal Engineers' Recreation Club resulted as follows:—H. K. F. C., one goal; Royal Engineers, nil.

SHOOTING.

CUP COMPETITION.

The following are the scores in the third monthly shooting of C Company of the Hongkong Volunteers for the Potts and Gubbay's Cups:—

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	H'cap.	Total.
* Corpl. Sherwin	27	26	28	19	100
* Lieut. Duncan	29	34	24	8	95
Gunner Baldwin	27	35	28	—	90
Lieut. Underwood	26	24	26	8	84
Sergt. Rodger	27	21	21	15	84
Gunner Maskell	20	24	18	21	83
Gunner McCorquodale ..	13	23	27	18	81

Corporal Sherwin scores his first win on Captain Potts' Cup

* Corporal Sherwin and Lieutenant Duncan winners of Spoons.

HONGKONG AND PORT NEWS.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks a donation of \$50 from Ho Ngok Lau to the funds of the Hospitals.

In view of generally expressed opinion that rats have something to do with the spread of plague, our readers will remember that the Government authorised the Sanitary Board to give two cents for every dead rat brought to them. As yet only one has been forthcoming.

At the forthcoming race meeting gambling carried on by professional Chinese gamblers and the use of mat-sheds solely for fan-tan and other Chinese games of chance will not be permitted. We understand that the object is to prevent the incursion of Chinese professional gamblers and the crowd they draw in their trains.

The accounts in connection with the Patriotic Football matches have been audited, and the Hon. Treasurer of the Hongkong Football Club has handed a cheque for \$562.57 to Sir Thomas Jackson. The Committee of the Hongkong Football Club desire to thank Messrs. Noronha and Co. for doing all printing free of cost, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh for selling tickets without charging commission, and those soldiers and sailors who kindly gave their services in preserving order on the ground.

Mee Cheung, photographer, has sent us a remarkably good bromide picture of the group at Government House on the occasion of H.E. Li Hung Chang's visit. The photograph was taken by special request of the distinguished visitor, and depicts H.E. Li with Chinese staff, H.E. Sir Henry Blake, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary; Mr. Fitzipios, H.B.M.'s Consular Service at Canton; Lieut. Viscount Snirdale, and Captain E. D. Sanders, A.D.Cs. to the Governor. The picture is a pleasing souvenir of the visit of the aged statesman to the colony.

The funeral of late Mr. Granville Sharp took place on the 14th inst., The deceased gentleman died in England, and, in accordance with his instructions, his body was cremated and the ashes brought out to Hongkong for interment beside those of his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Sharp were the chief mourners, and amongst others present were Mr. E. H. Sharp, Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Hon. F. H. May, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Hon. E. R. Balinas, Hon. J. J. Keswick, Mr. D. Gillies, Mr. A. McConachie, Mr. A. P. Stokes, Mr. C. Palmer, Mr. E. A. Ram, Mr. C. Ford, Mr. W. Chatham, Dr. F. Clark, Mr. F. Maitland, Mr. J. H. Cox, Mr. D. R. Crawford, Mr. A. Findlay Smith, Mr. G. Stewart, Mr. H. Bowdler, etc. The service was conducted by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Victoria. The bearers were Chinese employees of the deceased.

Col. L. F. Brown, half-pay, R.E., has been appointed to command the Royal Engineers in China and Hongkong, in the place of Col. H. Elsdale, who retires to-day.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Clark, notifies that there had been four cases of plague reported from 1st January to the 17th, with four deaths.

H.M.S. *Centurion* arrived on the 14th inst. from Labuan. She did not visit Sandakan and has had nothing to do with the Mat Salleh troubles.

Orders-in-Council are published in the *Gazette* authorising an extension of the Mount Davis Cemetery and an extension of the cemetery near Mantauiwei, in British Kowloon.

On Monday 15th inst., some Chinamen were employed in getting some iron from a lighter on to the S. S. *Hyson* when the chain gave way. One of the men on the lighter was killed at once by being struck with a piece of iron and another was badly injured.

On the 17th inst. a Chinaman employed at the East Point Sugar Refinery got his queue entangled in the machinery and his scalp was torn off. He was taken to the Government Civil Hospital. The previous afternoon a mafon employed by Mr. Kennedy, liveryman, met with a serious accident. He had climbed a tree at Mr. Kennedy's town depot for the purpose of cutting off a rotten branch for firewood. The branch on to which he had climbed broke, as also did another branch on to which he fell and he was dashed down a distance of 40 or 50 feet into an adjoining ravine. He was badly cut about the head and his spine was badly injured. He was taken to the Hospital and is not expected to recover.

On the 13th inst. a cinematograph entertainment was given in the City Hall in aid of the War Relief Fund. The arrangements were made by the Hon. F. H. May, who acted as chairman. In opening the proceedings Mr. May made a few observations, mentioning that they were indebted to Mr. E. F. G. Hatch, M.P., for the loan of the cinematograph, to Mr. Wickham for the electrical arrangement, to the committee of the City Hall for granting the free use of the premises, and to Mrs. Lowson, Lieut. Barrett, and Mr. A. G. Ward for consenting to provide the musical part of the entertainment. Songs were given by Mrs. Lowson and Lieut. Barrett, Mr. Ward accompanying. A most interesting collection of views was shown and the entertainment was much enjoyed. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. May for his services. A collection realised \$214.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 5th January.—Silk, Tatlees and Reels.—No. business has been done in these sorts. Filatures.—Have remained extremely dull throughout the fortnight, the demand for Europe being practically nil. Prices have been very irregular; a good many reelers have withdrawn their holdings, preferring to wait rather than to sell at actual prices, whilst others, pressed for money, made considerable concessions. The last two days there has been more demand and prices are firmer. From prices paid we quote: \$1.150 for Miu King Lun 11/13 and 13/15, \$1.110 for Kwong Lun Fung 11/13, \$1.100 for Yut Cheong Wo and Miu Wo Cheong 10/12, \$1.060 for Quan On Tai 11/13, \$1.060 for Kwong Wo Loong 10/12, \$1.010/995 for Soey Wo Cheong and Quan Hing 10/12, \$980/930 for Hing Lun, Yee Wo Lun and Quan Hing 11/3 and 13/15, \$950 for King Wo Cheong 13/22. Short-reels.—Little has been done for America and prices are irregular. Note.—Very quiet and prices only nominal. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 2/— and Fcs. 2.52 per Dollar:—

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—There is nothing to report in the position of the market, which is nearly the same as last reported. Quotations for Formosa are \$80.50 to \$81.40; sales 300 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—Nearly all the stocks having been cleared; the prices are advancing a little. Quotations are: Shetloong, No. 1, White... \$8.37 to \$8.48 per. do. " 2, White... 7.60 to 7.63 "

Shetloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.65 to 5.70	per.
do. " 2, Brown...	5.40 to 5.45	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	8.13 to 8.17	"
do. " 1, White...	7.30 to 7.35	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.32 to 5.36	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.20 to 5.25	"
Foochow Sugar Candy...	12.08 to 12.10	"
Shetloong	10.65 to 11.00	"

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—Bengal.—The demand has been meagre, rates have declined, closing at \$915 for Patna and \$910 for Benares.

Malwa.—A large amount of business has been transacted and the market closes firm at the following figures:—

New and Old \$930 to \$940.

Persian.—There have been very few sales during the past week, but the better quality of Paper-wrapped Opium seems to be in demand and therefore prices have advanced \$820 for Oily and \$630 to \$870 for paper-wrapped according to quality. To-day's stocks are estimated as follows:—

Patna	867 chests.
Benares	167 "
Malwa	892 "
Persian	1,841 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1900	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Jan. 13	925	—	920	—	930	940
Jan. 14	925	—	920	—	930	940
Jan. 15	925	—	920	—	930	940
Jan. 16	925	—	920	—	930	940
Jan. 17	920	—	915	—	930	940
Jan. 18	915	—	910	—	930	940
Jan. 19	915	—	910	—	930	940

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—There has been a fairly steady demand at current rates. Stock, about 2,400 bales.

Bombay	21.00 to 22.50	picul.
Kurrachee	— to —	"
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca	22.50 to 23.50	"
Shanghai and Japanese, ...	25.00 to 26.50	"
Tungchow and Ningpo	25.00 to 26.00	"
Madras (Best)	— to —	"
Sales: 500 bales.		

RICE.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—The prices are declining, no demands having come forward. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.95 to 2.98
" Round, Good quality	3.26 to 3.30
" Long	3.37 to 3.42
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	3.20 to 3.25
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	3.54 to 3.57
" White	3.73 to 3.80
" Fine Cargo	4.09 to 4.13

COALS.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—Sales 1,500 ton. Cardiff coal ex ship and Godown at \$21 at \$22 In Japanese very small business is reported.

Cardiff	\$20.00 to \$21 ex ship, nominal
Australian	11.00 to — ex ship, steady
Milki Lump } and Small. }	8.00 to 9.00 nominal
Moji Lump ...	6.50 to 8.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double screened	12.00 to — ex godown
Hongay Lump	8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust...	5.50 to —
Briquettes	10.50 to — ex godown

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn:—700 bales No. 10 at \$82 to \$91, 650 bales No. 1 at \$82.50 to \$88, 800 bales No. 16 at \$85.50 to \$97, 750 bales No. 20 at \$98 to \$104. Japanese Yarn:—100 bales No. 20 at \$95 to \$103. Grey Shirtings:—500 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$2.25, 9,000 pieces 8 lbs. No. 1 at \$3.47, 600 pieces 8 lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3.65, 2,700 pieces 8 lbs. Red Seal at \$3.07, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Blue Seal at \$3.17, 4,200 pieces 8 lbs. Blue Seal at \$3.47, White Shirtings:—500 pieces Flower Chop at \$5.60, 500 pieces C Chop at \$6.47, 1,000 pieces Flower Vase at \$4.85, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.90.

500 pieces O at \$4.90, 400 pieces Blue Lion at \$7.02, 600 pieces 3.5 at \$5.10, 500 pieces M at \$5.60, 500 pieces Elphant and Lee at \$6.10, 500 pieces K 300 at \$6.70, 1,000 pieces Flower Chop at \$5.60, 2,500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$3.80, 2,000 pieces Flower Basket at \$3.27, 1,500 pieces Fox and Duck at \$6.10. T Cloths:—1,300 pieces 8 lbs. Hunter and Stag at \$3.47, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.76, 600 pieces 8 lbs. V V at \$3.35, 600 pieces 8 lbs. C C at \$3.47.

REFINERS:—Quicksilver:—100 flasks at \$169. Lead:—70 slabs Fooong Chai at \$38.50, 100 slabs Fooong Chai at \$68.50.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—Business continues quiet and the market dull. Rates in most stocks show a decline and there is nothing of any importance in the way of transactions to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled very quiet and weak with sellers and no buyers even at the reduced rate. The approach of China New Year and the consequent tightness of the money market, combined with the intention of the management to pay a bonus of 10s. in lieu of £1, are the chief reasons for the decline in this stock. It has been decided to appropriate the profits for six months ended December 31st, 1899 as follows:—A dividend of 30s., a bonus of 10s., \$500,000 to reserve and about \$1,000,000 carried forward to new account. The London rate by latest advices is £61 10. 0d. Market here closes quiet with sellers at \$343. Nationals have further declined to \$26 without sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands in small lots at \$53 and \$57 closing with sellers at the latter rate. Unions, and Cantons remain unchanged and without business, as likewise the Northern Insurances and Straits.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have found buyers in small lots at \$330 and \$332 and are still enquired for. Chinas have been negotiated at \$88 but close with sellers at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao after sales at \$31 have ruled easier with sellers at \$31 and no buyers. Indos have improved to \$88 with small sales whilst a demand forward remains unsatisfied. Douglas continue quiet, and without business. China Manilas are obtainable at \$87 but buyers only offer \$85. China Mutuals still remain in demand without bringing shares on the market.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are reported to have been placed at \$115, from the North. There has been no local business and the quotation of \$118 must be taken as more or less nominal. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms have been dealt in to some extent at \$6.35 and \$6.25, and close weaker with sellers at \$5.90. Charbonages are still enquired for and have changed hands at quotation. Olivers, Great Easterns and Raubs have changed hands in small lots, also Jelebus at quotations.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled easier with sellers and no buyers at \$538 closing at \$535, no sales are reported, but a demand at something under equivalent rates forward cannot be satisfied. New Amoy Docks are obtainable at \$204. Kowloon Wharfs have all been much quieter with sales at \$88, \$87, \$87 and \$85, the market closing with sellers at \$85. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—All stocks under this heading have declined. Hongkong Kowloon Lands after further sales at \$118 and have been negotiated at \$116 and close with buyers at the last rate. Hotels have been placed at \$124, \$123, and \$122, in small lots closing with buyers at the last rate. West Points after sales at \$39, \$38, and \$37 are procurable at \$35. Humphreys could be placed at \$9.35, but shares are not obtainable.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong after sales at \$47 and \$46 have declined to \$43, with sellers. The quotations for the Northern Mills in the absence of local business are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have declined to \$29. Watsons have changed hands at \$16. Electrics at \$9.75, Ropes at \$250 to \$275. Ices at \$134 and \$135 and China Providents at \$9.25 ex dividend.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		(\$15.75, sellers)
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	34 1/2 p. ct. prem.,=
China & Japan, ord.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Nat. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$ 6.
Foun. Shares	£8	\$ 6.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$1	\$15, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$12, ex div.
China Sugar	\$100	\$118.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 60.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 65.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 67.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 57.
Hongkong	\$100	\$13, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$150, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$49, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$0	\$9, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$25.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$9.75, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$150, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$122, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$135, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$5, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$175, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$335, sellers % pm.
Insurance—		=[\$703.75]
Canton	\$50	\$130, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$88.
China Traders'	\$25	\$57, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$332 1/2.
North-China	\$25	Tls. 180, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$2.
Union	\$50	\$235, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$115, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$116 1/2, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.35, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$28, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$35, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$46
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$350, sales & buyers
Gr. Estn. & O'donian	\$5	90 cts.
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cts., buyers
Jebeu	\$5	\$124.
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	30 cts., sellers
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$81, sellers
Do. B.	\$4 1/2	\$6, sellers
Punjom	\$6	\$5.90, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.30, sellers
Raults	15s. 10d	\$61 1/2.
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$20 1/2, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$85, buyers
China Mutual Pref.	£10	£9.15, buyers
China Ordinary	£10	£9.10, buyers
Do.	£5	£4.15, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$51, sellers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$31, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$38.
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£100	£240
Star Ferry	\$7 1/2	\$20, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3.
United Asbestos	\$2	\$4 1/2, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37 1/2	\$43 1/2, ex div.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10 1/2.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16 1/2, sales & sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 19th January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2 1/4
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.52
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	200 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	17 1/2
Credits, 30 days' sight	8 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	143 1/2
Bank, on demand	144 1/2

ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	13 1/2
Bank, on demand	14 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	7 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	3 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	4 1/2 pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 1/2 pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 1/2 % pm.
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2 1/2 % pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 % pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	.61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.17
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine per tag	53

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 19th January.—During the past fortnight there has been a limited demand for tonnage, and rates coastwise show a decline. From Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents is offered for medium sized carriers, prompt loading, and 21 cents for loading after Chinese New Year (31st January); to Java, no enquiry; to Singapore, 16 cents; to Philippines, 35 cents has been paid for a small steamer. Java to Hongkong, 35 cents dry sugar. Japan coal freights are weaker. To Hongkong, \$2.75 per ton; to Singapore, \$9.10. Sailing vessels.—Hence to Callao a vessel of 1,500 tons is wanted; to other ports no enquiry. Singapore to Hongkong, \$10 per ton register can be obtained.

There is one vessel disengaged in port registering 1,424 tons.

The following are the settlements:—
King Arthur—British ship, 1,562 tons, proceeds Tacoma in ballast.

Valkyrie—British bark, 498 tons, two trips Rajah to Hongkong, \$13,000 in full.

Bengloe—British steamer, 1,933 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.80 per ton.

Bemvorch—German steamer, 2,164 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.75 per ton.

Sultan Van Langkat—Dutch steamer, 1,510 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.25 per ton.

Glenagarry—British steamer, 1,925 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.25 per ton.

An Indo-China Steam Navigation Company's steamer, Hongay to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Glenagarry—British steamer, 1,925 tons, Rangoon to Japan, 65 cents per picul.

Pronto—German steamer, 719 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 16 cents per picul.

Aperade—German steamer, 696 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 35 cents per picul.

Onsang—British steamer, 1,787 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 25 cents per picul.

Kongbeng—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Pukshan—British steamer, 1,235 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Trilos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 1/2 cents per picul.

Pronto—German steamer, 719 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Peiyang—German steamer, 1,036 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 1/2 cents per picul.

Suisang—British steamer, 1,776 tons, 2/3 ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 35 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 40 cents per picul.

Emma Laykin—German steamer, 1,109 tons, monthly, 12 months, at \$8,500 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—	Massilia (str.), Cocrie (str.), Stentor (str.), Antenor (str.), Menclaus (str.), Bombay (str.), Benlomond (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—	Karlsruhe (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—	Massilia (str.), Parramatta (str.), Caledonien (str.), Annam (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—	Wittenberg (str.), Holsatia (str.), Babelsberg (str.), Westphalia (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—	Algoa (str.), America Maru (str.), Coptic (str.).
FOR SAN DIEGO VIA KOBE.—	Carlisle City (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—	Empress of India (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C., VIA SHANGHAI.—	Breconshire (str.).

FOR PORTLAND, O.—Abergeldie (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—Queen Eleanor (str.), Afridi (str.), Austria (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIA.—Yawata Maru (str.), Tinian (str.), Eastern (str.).
FOR GENOA AND MARSEILLES.—Trocas (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Tai-sang (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND BOMBAY.—Bisagno (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

January—	ARRIVALS.
12.	Quarta, German str., from Moji.
12.	Sachsen, German str., from Bremerhaven.
12.	Jacob Diedericksen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
12.	Ningpo, British str., from Wuhu.
12.	Progress, German str., from Tourn.
12.	Thales, British str., from Swatow.
12.	Trieste, Australian str., from Trieste.
13.	Diamante, British str., from Manila.
13.	Sarnia, German str., from Kobe.
13.	Taiyuan, British str., from Kobe.
13.	Kinkiang, British str., from Canton.
13.	Hsinchi, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
13.	Haitair, British str., from Swatow.
13.	Clara, German str., from Pakhoi.
13.	Hsiping, Chinese str., from Canton.
13.	Bittern, Brit. barquentine from F'mantle.
13.	Dagmar, German str., from Swatow.
13.	Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
13.	Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
13.	Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
13.	Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'tsu.
14.	Centurion, British flagship, from Manila.
14.	Ernest Simons, French str., from S'hai.
14.	Hating, French str., from Haiphong.
14.	Kwangse, British str., from Chinkiang.
14.	Hsinyu, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
14.	Indravelli, British str., from Foochow.
14.	Konoura Maru, Jap. str., from Manila.
14.	Onsang, British str., from San Francisco.
14.	Paoting, British str., from Chinkiang.
14.	Tamsui Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
14.	Wuhu, British str., from Chinkiang.
14.	Wosang, British str., from Chinkiang.
14.	Dardanus, British str., from Moji.
14.	Hong Leong, British str., from S'pore.
15.	Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
15.	Taisang, British str., from Canton.
15.	Chibhi, British str., from Canton.
15.	Foochow, British str., from Canton.
15.	Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
15.	Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
15.	Hailoong, British str., from Amoy.
15.	Hoihao, French str., from Hoihow.
15.	Hyson, British str., from Singapore.
15.	Kansu, British str., from Chinkiang.
15.	Alacuity, British des.-ves., from Manila.
15.	Iltis, German gunboat, from Shanghai.
16.	Macduff, British str., from Moji.
16.	Shantung, British str., from Moji.
16.	Sakura Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
16.	St. Regulus, British str., from New York.
16.	Miike Maru, Japanese str., from S'pore.
16.	Canton, British str., from London.
16.	Indus, French str., from Saigon.
16.	Kashing, British str., from Chinkiang.
16.	Trocas, British str., from Shanghai.
16.	Amara, British str., from Wuhu.
16.	Hue, French str., from Hoihow.
17.	Robilla, British str., from Yokohama.
17.	Chowfa, British str., from Saigon.
17.	Thales, British str., from Swatow.
17.	Hermes, Norw. str., from Hongay.
17.	Telona, British str., from Singapore.
17.	Lienhsing, British str., from Chinkiang.
17.	Ichang, British str., from Chinkiang.
17.	Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
17.	Baltimore, Amr. gunboat, from Manila.
17.	Wheeling, Amr. gunboat, from Manila.
18.	America Maru, Jap. str., from S. F'isco.
18.	Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., from Australian.
18.	Propontis, British str., from Hoihow.
18.	Massilia, British str., from Shanghai.
18.	Sabine Rickmers, British str., from Amoy.
18.	Breconshire, British str., from Tacoma.
18.	Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
18.	Carlisle City, British str., from S. Diego.
18.	Fansang, British str., from Chinkiang.
18.	Ambria, German str., from Shanghai.
18.	Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
18.	Westphalia, German str., from Singapore.

18, Iris, American des. ship, from Manila.
18, Hsin-yu, Chinese str., from Canton.

January—DEPARTURES.

13, Sachsen; German str., for Shanghai.
13, Haimun, British str., for Amoy.
13, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
13, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.
13, Tulenkun, Amr. schr., for Ponape.
13, Patriana, British str., for Balik Papan.
13, Tategami Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
13, Hsiping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
13, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
13, Chi-yuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
13, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
13, Mazagon, British str., for London.
14, Inaba Maru, Jap. str., for London.
14, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
14, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
14, Benalder, British str., for Rangoon.
14, Kalgan, British str., for Wuhu.
14, Trieste, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
14, Hsinchi, Chinese str., for Canton.
15, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., for Europe.
15, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
15, Tourugisan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchnotzu.
15, Phranang, British str., for Swatow.
15, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
15, Kiukiang, British str., for Swatow.
15, Strathgyle, Brit. str., for S. Francisco.
15, Wuhu, British str., for Canton.
15, Kwangse, British str., for Canton.
16, Apenrade, German str., for Saigon.
16, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
16, Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
16, Chihli, British str., for Wuhu.
16, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
16, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
16, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
16, Paoting, British str., for Canton.
16, Pamiat Azova, Rus. cr., for Singapore.
16, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
16, Hsin-yv, Chinese str., for Canton.
16, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
16, Sarnia, German str., for Hamburg.
16, Indraveli, British str., for New York.
16, Hating, French str., for Hoihow.
16, Dardanus, British str., for London.
16, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
16, Kingsing, British str., for Swatow.
16, Foochow, British str., for Saigon.
16, Indus, French str., for Shanghai.
17, Empress of China, British str., for V'ner.
17, Amara, British str., for Canton.
17, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
17, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
17, Hailong, British str., for Saigon.
17, Hyson, British str., for Shanghai.
17, Tetartos, German str., for S'pore.
17, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
17, Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.
17, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
17, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
17, Taiyuan, British str., for Sydney.
17, Kashing, British str., for Canton.
17, Iltis, German gunboat, for Canton.
17, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
18, Kosa Maru, Japanese str., for Amoy.
18, Trocas, British str., for Singapore.
18, Konoura Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
18, Dagmar, British str., for Chinkiang.
18, Lianshing, British str., for Canton.
18, Michael Jensen, German str., for H'phong.
18, Taisang, British str., for Calcutta.
18, Telena, British str., for Yokohama.
18, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
18, Mike Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
18, Onsang, British str., for Saigon.
18, Solace, American monitor, for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sachsen*, from Bremen, Messrs. R. L. Richardson, Seiffert, Paul Kruegen, Mr. and Mrs. Church, Messrs. Y. C. Eddy, Strong, Bedford, Horny, Insp. Lahlmeister Muller, Messrs. R. Pfisher, Wm. Bridie, Ad. Rothe, Miss A. Doberok, Messrs. Luigi Musso and Trost.
Per *Coptic*, from San Francisco, Mrs. W. J. Watson, Mr. D. H. Gulick, Mrs. G. W. Bristol, Mrs. B. F. Patrick, Messrs. C. F. Morse, A. H. Cathcart, U.S.N., J. S. Barber, U.S.N., H. R. Sullivan, U.S.N., Wm. Alexander, U.S.N., Geo. E. Velie, W. McLaughlin, Mrs. H. C. Hale, Mrs. W. Hawthurst, F. L. Swift and infant, Mrs. H. H. Pattison and daughter, Mrs. M. C. Allen, Mrs. T. H. Slavens, Mr. L. B. Stoddart, Mrs. Eugene Coffin, Jr., Messrs.

D. McCredie, I. D. F. Lansing, A. H. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. Savage and child, Mr. and Mrs. Henneberger and Miss Henneberger, Mr. H. Henneberger, Jr., Mr. T. Ataki and Wife, Mrs. H. P. Watt and Mrs. Foster, Mr. H. Lord, Major J. O. Hutchingson, Mrs. F. C. Shepard and Miss W. R. Lewis, Miss Angie M. Myers, Mrs. F. J. Randolph, Mrs. G. L. Otis, Miss Otis and maid, Miss K. Soudder, Capt. K. R. Campbell and servant, Capt. A. W. Patrick, Mr. H. W. Hogg and servant, Mr. A. L. Hart, Mr. F. B. Smalley.

Per *Lysemoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Oelschlager, Rosenbaum and Fühn.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Mr. Brazier.

Per *Trieste*, from Trieste, Messrs. A. Dirl Medico, C. Bremer, A. Heardmann, Rev. T. Pages, Rev. Couvreur, Mr. Papasion, and Miss A. Limmier.

Per *Taiyuan*, from Kobe, Mrs. R. Nelson.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. D. Harty and Qua Soy Wing.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Mr. R. E. Humphreys, Capt. Reichmann, Mrs. Stevenson, Messrs. McCollough, Alyoune, Capironi, Mrs. Andrews and servant, Dr. Strong, Messrs. Krüges, 2 servants and 2 children, Adesked, Barretto, Audit, Ames, and 164 Chinese.

Per *Taiwan*, from Shanghai, &c., Miss Nellie Vangan.

Per *Bitten* from Freemantle, Mrs. Askin and child.

Per *Paoting*, from Wuhu, &c., Mrs. Miller and child.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. L. H. Sheung, Lo, Loo, Poimen, Miss R. Corea, Messrs. T. Mesiya, Cheong, A. B. Batty, and Yung Yu; from Shanghai, H. E. Li Hungchang, Lord Li and his secretary, Mr. and Mrs. Malon, Mrs. Adams, Mr. A. W. Inmans, Comte Butler, Messrs. H. Richan, K. J. Williams, John Andrew, and A. Spensen Ellam; for Saigon, from Nagasaki, Mr. Dugora Tozora; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Messrs. J. Yoshida, K. Kojima, Lieut. Col. Martos; for Marseilles, from Shanghai, Messrs. Hirounait, Kopsh, Percebois, Horsburgh, Lenormand; from Yokohama, Messrs. Tonkouba, Paul Lefizolin, H. Agura, Xita, T. Spunkai, Maitu, Kallunbaot, and Kloosermenir.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Messrs. Sajuco, B. del Barrio, J. Horden, Capt. Anderson, and 104 Chinese.

Per *Choysang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. Reid.

Per *Hailong*, from Tamsui, &c., Lieuts. Walwyn and Thomson, Messrs. J. H. Lewis, J. Gresson, P. Cox and Cheong Sheen Sun.

Per *Indus*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Jacquet and Luckban Rilles, Mr. and Mrs. David Summer; from Colombo, Messrs. Plattring, F. Larkin, and Ala Hale; from Singapore, Mr. Feottong Lui, Miss Ade'o Flerez, Mr. Soosoye, Miss Atanoo, Messrs. Cheng Kiat, Guay Lever, Hong Guan, and Le Seng; from Saigon, Messrs. Kose and Parnet Andre; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. de Snick, Mr. and Mrs. Wheelock and daughters, Messrs. Leigh Smith, Lamour, and Lavail; from Colombo, Mrs. Salmond; from Singapore, Mr. Egeraff; for Nagasaki, from Marseilles, Mr. Witthaff, Mr. and Mrs. Hardelman; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Reinhard and Miss Ome; from Saigon, Mrs. Oky; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. Rubattel; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Yamata, Messrs. Suenon, Condo, Takasi, Fujiten, Soeur Veronique, Marie Helene, Angele du Calvaire, Rosalie, A. J. de la Croix, and Mr. Leon Morean; from Singapore, Mr. Van Holy.

Per *Canton*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Melton, Messrs. John Hays and T. Marks; for Manila, Mr. W. Benson and 103 Chinese.

Per *Rohilla*, for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Tedlie; for Hongkong, Lieut. Geo. Holden, R.N., Messrs. Boan, R.N., Taplin, R.N., O. Cashman, R.N., W. Wave R.N., M. R. Joyce, R.N., W. T. Jeffries, R.N., and L. K. Tean; from Kobe, Messrs. W. A. Clemsha, H. C. Chang, L. C. Yeun and B. Ding; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Samariva, Mr. Y. Seem and Fleet-Engineer J. W. Ham, R.N.

Per *Carlisle City* from San Diego, Mr. Ellis.

Per *Sunkiang* from Manila, Mrs. Myers.

Per *America Maru*, for Hongkong, from San Francisco, Japan and Shanghai, &c., Miss G. Schallenberger, Mrs. H. H. Sargeant, Mr.

N. G. Van Sant, Mrs. C. Goodman, Mr. A. Hope Doeg, Mrs. J. M. Bell, Messrs. E. Wilson, S. H. Northcote, Mrs. M. A. Nesbitt, Mr. W. N. Robinson, Mr. Dickson, Mrs. M. F. Steele, Messrs. G. Van Saut, I. S. Holt, R. F. Colborne, Wm. MacWhirter, Mrs. E. Wilson, Mr. F. Y. Edwards, Dr. K. Weisses, Mrs. F. W. Brooks, Lieut. F. Brooks and servant.

Per *Massilia*, from Shanghai, Messrs. C. Holm, Chas. Holiday and European servant, C. Aldridge, Fong Kut Hin and native servant, Miss Clarke and native servant, Mr. Charles, Grant and Mrs. Carstens, Mr. F. Fullerton, Lieut. N. T. Holme, U.S.N., two Chinese cooks, Mr. C. W. Dierchs, Private D. Mack, Rev. and Mrs. Dempsey; for London, Messrs. P. McCann, W. C. Gibson; for Brindisi, Bishop Von Anger; for Bombay, Mr. M. S. Joseph.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, for Hongkong from Australia, Mr. R. H. Liddon, Sir Wm Hoste, Bart, Dr. O. C. Washington, Mrs. C. P. Dawson, Mr. Y. Kobayashi, Mr. R. H. Little, Mr. and Mrs. Macleod, Mr. J. Tarnoc, Mr. D. M. Baldwin, Mr. E. W. McGill; for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Warren, Dr. Ohtake, Mr. F. W. Irby; for Hongkong, Mr. D. de Larreta, Mr. R. Shimozato; for Japan, Mr. G. Tsuchi, Mr. K. Kanau, Mr. Y. Takobayashi, Mr. Sasaki, Miss O'Brien.

DEPARTED.

Per *Sachsen*, for Shanghai, from Bremen, Mrs. M. Wiegler; from Southampton, Mr. J. Marshall, Dr. Stooke, Miss M. Hendrick, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter, Messrs. Sanderson and Saltmarsh; from Genoa, Messrs. C. Hebold, W. Boyes, Messrs. M. Medara and I. A. Sanderberg; from Suez, Mr. and Mrs. Pons Aquilhorn; from Colombo, Messrs. Dyer, P. Loschter and A. D. Wenger; from Hongkong, Messrs. M. Cassambhoy, G. Harling and Melindkog. For Yokohama, from Bremen, G. Werkmeister; from Southampton, Misses R. McCormac, L. Amor, Messrs. A. Murs, E. C. Ogden and A. H. Hughes; from Genoa, Mr. B. Ariga, and Prof. Dr. Florenz; from Singapore, Mr. R. D. McWilliams; from Hongkong, Messrs. J. Millsop, F. L. Berton, Mr. and Mrs. T. Leary; from Hongkong, for Kobe, Messrs. C. N. Crosse and J. L. Wilkinson. For Nagasaki, from Naples, Mr. A. Blum; from Colombo, Mr. Vockoff; from Hongkong, Miss Ellis and Mrs. Lys.

Per *Esmeralda*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, Messrs. L. Glissmann, MacLaughlin, G. E. Velie, C. E. Morse, Mrs. Slavens, Mrs. Swift and infant, Mrs. Randolph, Mr. J. A. Brebrake, Mr. A. L. Parker, Mrs. Eugene Coffin, Jr., Mrs. Allen, Mr. J. Stevens, H. M. Tibbey, Mr. and Mrs. Savage and child, Mr. D. Gulick, Mrs. Patison and child, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Bristol, Mrs. Patrick, Mrs. Vayhn, Mr. Rothie.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Pangeon, Messrs. A. E. Richard, Familet, fifty-six Chinese; for Singapore, Messrs. Yip and servant, Chen and servant, E. F. G. Hatch, M.P. and valet, Hon. A. Crikton, Messrs. C. F. Davis, Berthier, Misses J. Blanche, L. Waller, Schuster and Mrs. Blum, Mr. Bailis, 14 Chinese; for Colombo, Mr. C. Reechmann, eleven Chinese; for Port Said, Mr. E. Piettre; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Flayello, two children and servant, Messrs. J. Labeye, F. Labeye, A. Piettre, G. Dolyee.

Per *Empress of China*, for Shanghai, Mr. D. Harty, Mrs. Hurz and child, Messrs. Wilfred J. Bull, F. T. Bedford, C. K. Strong, W. V. Drummond, Mrs. J. Charles, Mr. E. H. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lee, Mr. Poon Sam Chan, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Warfield, Miss Anna B. Hartwell and Miss Lottie Hartwell; for San Francisco, Mr. Wm. Alfred Harris, Mons. and Madame Eugene Ancel, Mr. Arthur W. Rodley and Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Loeving; for Vancouver, Mr. A. T. Hashem and Mr. C. M. Beecher; for New York, Mr. and Mrs. Bing Ding; for London, Mr. R. Thornton and Mr. P. G. Thornton; from Yokohama for London, Mr. A. S. Crawley.

Per *Yuensang*, for Manila, Mrs. Adria M. Semple Moale, Mr. and Mrs. David Sommer, Messrs. Melchor Plattring, M. Martin, Wm. Benson, Mariano Davesa, G. Reid, Geo. Goldsmith, A. Male and F. Larkin.

Printed and Published by D. WARRINGALL, at 29, Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.